April 1.. 1844 } Wednesday. Morn fair; wind N. wind; day fair & mild air.

Our farmers will soon be employed in turning up their soil, planting their seeds, and in the usual business of husbandry. For this commendable employment they are well prepared; and it is hoped that the rashness of the ruling party in the united states, will not plunge them into a war, and call them into the field to wield implements with which they are unacquainted.

Our farmers. Employment of -

Our meadows though cultivated for about 170 years, still retain their fertility, though they require more manure than when the enriching floods were frequent, and if duly cultivated hereafter, they will continue to produce valuable crops so long as the present order of nature continues. When I was a lad scarcely a day, of suitable weather, past, without labouring in these fertile bottoms. At noon we took our repast, consisting of the cold dish of the previous day, or the warm pot luck sent us by the frugal mother, under the spreading branches of the headland tree, and quenched our thirst from the rundlet of family beer, or of cool water from a distant spring. After our repast we sometimes took a short nap upon the grass, shaded by the spreading tree. In short the meadow was our home and the parental mansion house our sleeping place at night. If our labour was sometimes exhausting, we regained our vigour by a night's sweet repose.

Habits of 1

Their home

78 This condition of our farmers continued
April until the commencement of our Revolution
1. in 1775, when other objects were brought
to view. We heard of [captures] Battles & Skirmishes
Condition at a distance, but we still continued
here our labor in our peaceful meadows,
in the and obtained support by our in-
Revo- dustry, though deprived of many
lution- of our former conveniences. The year
ary 1783 brought us peace and an independent
time government, but still our independence
depends on our industrious cul-
tivation of our valley, which has
never refused its bounties to the la-
borious farmer. Let us imitate
the industry & virtue of our Fathers
from whom we received the boon.
One remark is due. In the times
to which I have alluded, we heard
little of political wrangling; our great
men were good men, and esteemed for
their talents and virtues. In them we
The placed confidence and thanked them for
con- their faithful services. What a contrast
trast we now behold! Alas! it is feared,
we have not improved in the noble
virtues, which renders man happy
in society.
2. Thursday a fair morn - wind N.E.
air cool; day fair & P.M. wind NW
This morning my son Arthur, set
out for the city of New York, with
Son's a view of obtaining employment on
Jour- the projected rail road from the Hud-
ney to son to Lake Erie. To this business he
N. York is much attached, has spent much
time in its study, and been previous-
ly employed for several years in Mas-
sachusetts and Illinois. Should the
Polk and his party involve us in a
war, the rail-road projects will be
retarded, if not laid aside & [illegible]

spirit all laudable enterprise cease.
2. If our people are ready for this state of things, then they have lost their senses, and nothing short of ruin will cure the madness.

Our Social Library.

This day a member of the proprietors of our Social Library met at my residence to consult on a new system for the management of the books. It was proposed to divide the Library into — shares and hold them for sale, or annual lease, and to assess taxes from time to time as should be thought expedient. But there was such a diversity of opinion among the members, that nothing was agreed on.

Consultation among.

Some of the gentlemen thought that shares could not be sold or leased, even at a low rate; and this was attributed to a want of taste in the rising generation. News papers, magazines and works of imagination, were the only publications called for by the people at large. This, it must be acknowledged, is too true; and still we are said to be an enlightened people,

Remarks on.

and making great progress in knowledge. The fact is, a smattering of learning is substituted for general information by the people at large, and is, truly, accounted for from the multiplicity of our news-papers, which distract rather than inform the mind.

Deep science no use.

Indeed mathematical & philosophical knowledge, is held in low estimation, and if one can read his ticket at an election & tip it into the ballot box, under the guidance of his leader, nothing further is wanted in a republican.

72 Friday. Morn fair, wind N.

April 3. air cool; day fair throughout and

accommodate.

At page 48 of this No (20) I have entered a brief notice of Vol. 3° of the New-York agricultural Society; but have omitted a particular account

Gaylord on Insects — of Mr Gaylords Treatise on Insects, in one of the articles of the Vol.

In this treatise Mr Gaylord divides the insects into four parts. 1st Insects injurious to the vegetable Garden. 2° Insects injurious to Field Crops. 3° Insects injurious to orchards and Fruit

Division of the subject. — trees generally. 4th Insects injurious to Domestic Animals; to which he adds the common and scientific names.

In his classifications Mr Gaylord has given a more simple arrangement than we find in the treatises on Entomology, generally, though not entirely original in its terms.

The classification is as follows:

Classification into 10 orders. — 1. Coleoptera. This order includes all the insects commonly called beetles. Their wings are hard, of various colors, and protect the true wings from injury.

2. Orthoptera Crickets, grasshoppers, locusts &c. belong to this order of insects.

3. Hemiptera. This order includes the froghoppers, bugs, aphides &c. The name means half wings

4. Neuroptera. The libellulidae or dragon flies, are good representatives of this order.

5. Hymenoptera. The ichneumon fly, hornets, bees &c. belong to this order

April 3. — 6. Lepidoptera. all butterflies and moths are included in this order of insects.

Orders continued — 7. Strepsiptera. The parasitical insects found on wasps & bees, belong to this order.

8. Diptera. The house, cattle and horse flies, are representations of this order.

9. Suctoria. The flea is the most common insect of this order

10. Parasitea. The louse found on man, and those on birds and animals, represent this order.

Bug & beetles defined — The words bug & beetle are used by many as synonymous, but the above distinctions will show that beetles have hard wing cases, while bugs proper have only the rudiments of wings or half wings.

Transformations — Most insects are produced from eggs, and in their metamorphoses they become the larvae, the pupa, or chrysalis and at length a perfect insects. Some few however, do not pass through these transformations, but issue from the egg nearly in the form they are to maintain through life. The apterous insects, or those without wings, such as the ant, are mostly of this class.

Wonderful proofs of the times — These transformations are wonderful. Mr. Gosse says, that from the common wiggler of the cisterns of rain water, proceeds the musquito; from the hairy caterpillar of autumn the beautiful tiger moth; and from the stinking odious fennel or carraway worm, and

of the most splendid of butterflies.

April 3. The stage of life in which the ~~insect~~ insect becomes of interest to the agriculturist is the larvae or ~~lar~~ worm stage, as it is then, that they ~~b~~ continue the longest, and effect the greatest mischief. At the termination of the larvae state the insect frequently sheds its former covering, becomes motionless, and in this state is called pupa. After remaining in this condition for a longer or shorter time, the shell or covering of the pupa cracks, and the perfect insect issues to enjoy a few days of new life, propagate its species, and die.

Larvae & pupa state. Mode of changing

Damages to farmers from Insects

Insects, the writer says, cause more loss to the farmers of the U. States, than all other animals, or other causes, and in some instances he points out the remedies to be resorted to; but in general nothing effectual are found.

Mr Gaylords treatise is valuable & should be read by all.

No remarks on Entomology

Most of the treatises on Entomology which I have examined, contain very little more than a mass of Babel technology of little or no-use to the people at large. No doubt an Entomologist might amuse himself in this study, & became what is called learned, but he would be no more than a learned thing, to the exclusion of every thing else of utility.

On the whole, the Vol. contains much useful matter for ~~the~~ farmers and others, and evinces a laudable spirit in the government, in aid of its agriculture. Printed at Albany for the assembly, 1844.

4 Saturday. Fair morn, wind N. and cool air. Day very fair & pleasant, and the ground fast drying and becoming nearly the ...

April 4. Northerly winds have been common for some time past, as I believe is generally the case at this season of the year. May they not be explained by the sun's action on the earth & atmosphere when it is vertical, or nearly so? The heated air under the sun, rising and flowing off north and south, and the lower dense air rushing towards the equator to keep up an equilibrium, and thus a gyratory motion of the atmosphere produced. There are of no explanation so regular of the course of the winds at this season. Of this gyratory motion of the atmosphere, I have been convinced from phenomena observed for several years past. Indeed it seems to be a necessary consequence of the sun's action when it is vertical. The prevalence of the westerly winds during the year, I think, must be someway connected with the revolution of the earth on its axis. A reverse revolution might produce opposite winds. The difference of temperature found in the eastern & western sides of the continents in the same latitudes, are very naturally explained by the prevalence of westerly winds. The plan of nature is wisely contrived, and therefore we believe the best. It is therefore our duty to adapt our wants & employments to the laws established by the Creator; an opposite course is sure to bring distress and misery, which the other would avoid.

Winds at this time

Theoretical considerations

Gyratory motion in the atmosphere.

Opposite sides of continents

Reflections.

Congress. During the past week we have no important proceedings of that body. Are the war preparations proposed by the President, in the hands of committees to be reported in bills to carry out the plans. The best preparations in the case was a spirit of justice, conciliation, and a disposition to be on friendly terms with neighbouring nations; with that there we are always in danger.

Congress for the past week

April 5. Sunday. Fair morn, wind W. and clear day. P.M. wind SW. and very clear sky; the ground drying faster, indicating an early Spring season

6. Monday. Thinly cloudy morn, wind SW. P.M. Fair & fine air.

Our General Court is still in session with a multiplicity of business, such as rail road grants and acts of incorporations. I have remarked upon the tardy mode of doing the business by committees. It is stated in a Boston paper, that from 12 to 15 gentlemen of the Law have been employed by petitioners for rail roads &c. This mode takes up much time, and, in fact, submits to the decision of committees what should be left for the two branches. This mode must be corrected, or the Legislature will become a mere registering body of the decisions of committees. All petitions might be examined and debated in the branch to which they are presented, and if favorably received, in both branches, handed over to a committee appointed by them for drafting proper bills to pass into laws.

Genl. Court

Mode of doing business tardy.

Different mode suggested

If it be said the members of the two branches are not competent to judge of the prayer of petitions, then it follows, that our system of government is unsound, and that members are elected who are unfit for their business: nay more, that none but gentlemen of the law are qualified to dictate and can enact the laws, which is directly opposed to our theory of a government of universal suffrage. (See page 67 of this number [20])

The present rush for rail roads, it is believed, will cease in the course of two years, and the General Court be left to pursue its ordinary business.

April. 7. Tuesday. Morn fair; wind W.
All sky hazy and air warm.

Fremont's Report

Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky mountains in the year 1842, and to Oregon and North California in 1843-1844. By Brevet Capt. J. C. Fremont of the Topographical Engineers. Vol. 8vo. pp. 583, with maps & views: printed by order of Congress.

Character of the Report

To all who feel an interest in the account of our western regions, this is an important document.
The explorations were scientific, and the Capt. was furnished with instruments for astronomical observations, by which the latitudes and longitudes were fixed, probably with considerable precision. In the narrative I find nothing very flattering in relation to the fertility of the region explored, and indeed most of it is represented as barren; some of the Indians finding it difficult to supply themselves with the necessary food, excepting in the parts where the Buffalo abound, and these animals will soon cease to exist under the destruction of the hunters who annually destroy vast numbers.

A 3d expedition

A third expedition is now undertaken by Capt. Fremont in parts further south and his report may be more interesting than his first two. Emigrants who read the reports will find very little inducement to leave their homes on this side of the Rocky mountains & become settlers in Oregon.

Note. Instruments used.

Capt. Fremont carried with him the following Instruments: one refracting telescope; 1 Reflecting circle; 2 sextants; 2 Pocket Chronometers; one Syphon barometer & 1 Cistern barometer; 6 thermometers and a number of small compasses, transported in a spring carriage.

78.
April 7.

The altitudes of the heavenly bodies were taken by the Sextant & artificial horizon, double of course, and Longitude by chronometer, occultations, eclipses of Jupiter's sattelites, or Lunar distances — all requiring the nicest observations, and still liable to errors, at the best.

Astronomical observations

Distances given

Tables of Distances are given in the Reports from the Kansas Landing; The whole from that point to fort Vancouver is 2766 miles. On the Homeward journey to the Missouri river 3700 miles; the march each day generally less than 30 miles and sometimes not exceeding 3 or 4.

Place of Departure

The Kansas river enters the Missouri about 400 miles (by water) from St. Louis on the Mississippi.

The detailed route commences at Chouteau's trading house on the right bank of the Kansas about 10 miles above the mouth, and beyond the western boundary of Missouri. Lat. 39.5.57 Long. 94.24.46; the elevation above the sea about 700 feet.

Assistants & fellows of men accompanied the expedition with horses, mules, armed with Halls Carbines, & furnished with a 12 lb howitzer on the 2d expedition and also 13 carts; one on springs for safe conveyance of Instruments.

The greatest difficulty seems to have been to transport sufficient provisions for subsistance.

8. Wednesday cloudy warm with rain & SW wind; Sun seen before noon, and the day partially fair.

Since perusing Capt. Fremont's Reports, I am more & more convinced of the absolute ~~[illegible]~~

8 fally of immigrating to the Oregon territory, while any quantity of land may be obtained in the Mississippi valley for a dollar & 25 cents the acre, & equal of the best quality. To point out any advantages that would accrue from such a change of residence, is impossible; and in fact none but the imprudent man will attempt it. According to Captain Fremont the distance from St Louis is upwards of 3000 miles to the mouth of Columbia River, most of the way through a wild country without roads, bridges or any conveniences on the route; and the cost of the transportation exceeds that of a nice farm on the Mississippi, where the country is fast settling by the people of the old states, whose manners, customs & habits are like our own. Capt. Fremont saw several caravans of the immigrants tugging through the wild country, some of whom had lost children by the sickening effects of the miasma of the country, and all must have undergone hardships beyond description; nor will these hardships end on arriving at their destined places. In short the attempt is next to insanity.

Emigration to the Oregon territory, folly.

Sufferings of the people on the route

The President & his party may raise the proposed rifle regiment for the protection of this long line of emigration, but will the peaceable farmers of the old states readily consent to pay the cost from their the public treasury? Mr Polk must keep an eye on this question, not forgetting the power of the people at the ballot box.

9. Thursday. Morn fair, wind S.W. followed by similar weather. Street paths nearly dry, attended good walking.

60 This day Mr Samuel Childs and
April Mr Rufus Clark owning a lot of land
9. in the Longhill Division both bounding
on the top of the East mountain; Said
Thus Childs owning the west and said Clark
then the east part, submitted to me the question
Submit what is to be considered the top of the mountain?
ted to After hearing their statements and ex-
me. amining the deeds of the parties, I gave
it as my opinion that the crest of the steep part of the
mountain was, and ought to be, the
boundary, even if there were higher knobs of
the mountain some distance from the
steep part. The western declivity of
the mountain is abrupt, and the eastern
more gradual. Mr Clark stated that
a boundstone & fence were now standing
at the north end of his claim, very near the
abrupt declivity, & that he, or his father, had
occupied the land, for 20 years, to the fence
& boundstone, which was not denied by Mr.
Childs.

Re- The fixing of a boundary upon the top
marks of a mountain, is rather indefinite since
it may be very irregular, or zig-zag, &
indeed uncertain. A more definite line would
prevent disputes. This may be fixed by
compass, or by known permanent objects.
In doubtful cases, long occupancy is, per-
haps, the best guide.

10 Friday. Fair mild wind SW. foll-
owed by a fair day, rather cool air.

Congress. In a speech in the Senate on
Oregon, Mr McDuffie said that "Discovery
without settlement gives no title
Mr to a country, and that he was astonish-
Mc. ed at the claim which had been set up
Duf. on the ground of discovery."
fies po- In this position I think him strictly
sition correct

April 10 land in the case of a settlement on an uninhabited coast, in any latitude, what right does this confer to the interior country in the same latitude? Why not assume a line in any other direction as a line of longitude or azimuth, suited to the avarice of the ~~discoverer~~ settlers.

Discovery gives no right.

But in the settlement of a place in a country inhabited by the natives no right is obtained, unless it be by the consent of the natives. Some covenant that civilized nations disregard the rights of the natives, and for this plain reason, they can drive them from their possessions & hold the country, vi et armis, which is no better than the right of the robber who takes our purse by force. There is but one question in the case, and that is, to what extent a tribe may extend their claims over an uncultivated country? The answer I think, may be; An extent contiguous to their settlement sufficient to afford them subsistence by hunting and fishing, & not claimed by other tribes on the same principles.

Indian settlers

Their extent

When first discovered America was spread over with tribes of Indians, sometimes occupying permanent stations, while others were nomadic and had no fixed residence; but who will deny the right of all to the land they occupied necessary for their hunting and fishing.

Original condition of America

Much has been, and still may be

April 10

said on this subject of [illegible] all, I think will result in this: That the Indians are justly entitled to such an extent as they occupy, & is necessary for their subsistence by hunting & fishing, & cultivation if they choose it.

Just claims of the Indi[ans] constitutionally

As respects titles to the northwest coast of America by us or Europeans, I consider them as extremely doubtful. If individuals of any nation have made settlements without the patronage of their respective governments, they alone, and not their nations, have acquired the Indian titles, provided the consent of the Indians has been fairly obtained: but this gives no right to the <u>interior</u> of <u>the country occupied by other tribes</u>, and, least of all, to any line of latitude.

Settlements how made

Laws concerning the rights of property have been established by civilized nations; but in these the natives have had no hand, and therefore they are not binding upon them.

In our Declaration of Independence we say as self evident truths — "That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". When these principles shall be fully carried out, the Indians, negroes &c. will be allowed to participate in them, and liberty will not be confined to a part of the human race —

Gen. Court

<u>Our General</u> Court, it is stated, will rise on the 15th instant. In the Amherst paper, remarks appear on the slow progress of business in that body, agreeing in some particulars with my own at page 76. I hope the attention of the public will be awakened on the subject, and a remedy be provided.

April 10 The petitioners to the Legislature from the Odd Fellows secret Society, have had leave to withdraw their petition for an act of incorporation. It seems the Legislature is not disposed to patronize combinations for secret purposes, unknown to church or state, or law or gospel.

[Margin: Odd F. Mens society petition &c.]

From the obvious puerility and worthlessness of this society, the ~~Christian Watchman~~ [Boston Watchman] ~~comes~~ has the following remarks. "It is made up of the simple part of community, who wish to give themselves consequence by pretensions of secret knowledge; and it appears that a few of our simple Clergy have been drawn into the puerility. But it is not improbable that we may hear from the bubble at the ballot boxes. When freemasonry expired on the murder of William Morgan, I predicted a substitute; and here we have it. Such is man without extended views & enlightened minds."

[Margin: a puerility]

[Margin: anticipated]

On a review of the proceedings of this session of the Legislature, it appears singular that so much novel business should come before it; but the people are full of schemes, many of which are Quixotic and Utopian, to say the least; old systems must be abolished for new and untried ones; — intended modern improvements have rendered the people wiser than their fathers, and even old acts and services are of little worth. All this indicates an uneasiness in the people; and whether they will stop within reasonable bounds, is doubtful. In this public disposition, the demagogue finds a wide field for his insidious labor, and is encouraged in his course

[Margin: reflections]

84 Saturday. Cloudy morn with
April } some rain and S.W. wind; fog
11. } on the mountains. The rain soon
ceased, and the sun was seen most of the day.

We hear of many accidents that
occur in the construction of rail roads:
the workmen in making deep ex-
cavations through elevations, are
often buried under the caving earth
from the sides of the excavations,
where the depth is considerable
of 20 or 30 feet. A more cautious
mode of operation is necessary, but
this might in some instances retard
the progress of the work; yet better
submit to this than suffer the loss
of their useful labourers, most of
whom are Irishmen of hardy habits
and truly valuable for their
industry. One accident of this kind
has occurred in this town, but the bu-
ried workman survived; one we heard
that was recently killed in this man-
ner at Athol on Miller's river. We
hope the rumor is incorrect.

The construction of a rail-road above
Miller's river seems to linger, and
we think it doubtful whether it will
be completed. On the multiplication
of these roads, I have expressed my opin-
ion. The cost of construction is too
great for the people in the interior of
the state, and of course the zeal for
them will abate. Mr Whitney's pro-
ject for a rail road to Oregon is as wild
as the country through which it is to pass,
yet some of our young men are confi-
dent that a few years will effect it:
The distance about 3000 miles, accord-
ing to Capt. Fremont's report. Parturiunt
montes; nascetur ridiculus mus; says the

Margin notes: Rail road excavations accidents from; Mor[illegible] tis t[illegible] bey.; Whitney's project

April 11. My Son Anthony arrived this day having made a journey to New city, and thence up the Hudson to White hall on Lake Champlain. While there he went with a party down to South Bay for fishing. He brings home a fresh Pike of 30 lbs caught in the bay. The Hudson and Erie Rail road company are not ready to commence operations on their route, and are waiting for some transactions in the Assembly of the State of New-york, — has left with the company his name as an applicant for employment. He says the general opinion is, that we shall have no war with Great Britain for the boundary of oregon. But how will Mr Polk manage his war hawks? — this is the rub! and it is left for him to settle. At the commencement of the present session of Congress, a party in the house was rife for war; but the check this spirit has received in the Senate, gives the patriot encouragement as well as some assurance of a balance wheel in our machine of government that shall hereafter regulate the rash measures which may often originate in the more democratic branch of Congress. Without this balancing power we might at this time have been plunged into an unnecessary war, our commerce spoiled, our sea coast towns in jeopardy, and "bella, horrida bella", stalking over our once peaceful fields. Thanks to the wisdom of a majority of the Senate, who have thus protected us

Son Anth on wind

84 against the meanness of a party
April whose delight is in havock, spoil
11. and reckless gain, at the expense
of our political rectitude.

M. Sunday. Morn cloudy—wind
12. NW. and the day generally the same: a
small quantity of rain fell.
Among the minor perplexities I meet
in my daily course, none are more
Paper, ink & pens: vexatious than the bad paper, ink & pens I use. The paper on which I am
now writing is worthless. It does not suddenly absorb the ink which often spreads
upon the glossy surface, as when attempting to write on smooth glass; and to alter
a word by taking it from the paper with
Defects of: a penknife, and inserting another, is
impossible. I sometimes use the metallic pens, but I find them of short duration and often spattering the ink upon the paper. My ink is prepared from
the powder of the stores, and is generally too
light in its color; The prepared ink of the
shops is not always at hand, and often
too expensive [illegible]. For a pen I
prefer the large home goose quill, but these are
seldom found in the shops, while others are
too [illegible] for common use [illegible]
Our writing paper fabricated from cotton
is inferior to the old linen kind, now
not often found at the shops. In short, most
of the hand writing of the present day is un
intelligible, and the ingredients with which
they are recorded, very defective; and
perhaps in no instances, more so than my
own scribblings.
Before the art of printing was known, books
Art of printing: were in manuscript, and great pains were
taken by copyists to write a fair hand.
Of course books were scarce and expensive
The Chinese, having claim to have possessed a sort
of printing art, prior to its discovery in Europe,
[illegible] I believe, rather imperfect & adapted to
[illegible]

April 13 Monday Fair morn, (87 wind N.W. Cloudy in the latter part of the day, air cool.

Mr Webster one of our Senators in Congress delivered a speech last week on subjects relating to the Oregon question, in which he noticed the vile and vulgar attacks made on him by certain democratic leaders, for the part he took in the Ashburton or N.E. boundary treaty. The manner in which this treaty is spoken of, is most vile and despicable, and nothing so clearly demonstrates the real designs of the war party. They saw in the N.E. boundary dispute, an opportunity for gratifying their long cherished disposition for war with Great Britain; but having failed of their darling object, they have since set up the cry, that we surrendered a valuable tract of land to the English government, through its influence over ours, and the object of the party has been to rouse the blind part of democracy to a clamor against the peaceable and rational part of society. They now with equal turpitude, seize on the Oregon boundary to effect their vile designs — a war with England, which they flatter themselves will end in an easy conquest of all the British Colonies in N America. In the course of his remarks Mr Webster, lashes the vile and vulgar insinuations of the two Senators of New York, (Dix & Dickinson) and showed them in their true dress. The speech will probably appear in a pamphlet form — Part of it came in the

Mr Webster's speech

The Ashburton treaty

Vile insinuations

Object of the Democrats

April 13. force of demonstration, our demagogues will continue their deluding arts, and still blind a portion of the people; and perhaps nothing but a war will bring them back to their senses, and enable them to discern their true interest — an expensive remedy indeed, but it may be the only effectual one. From the present aspect of Congress, I think a war with England, on the Oregon question, will be avoided; but such are the prejudice against the British government, that other causes will be sought; and not many years will elapse before our country will be involved in a war with that powerful nation, with which it is our interest to be on friendly terms. This hostile spirit is dishonorable to our nation, and ought to be repudiated; but it is found most prevalent among the democratic part of the people, who are misled by designing men who perceive no charms in a peaceful state of society. But these men, loud as they are in their hostile shouts, are not to be relied on.

The remedy

Prejudices vs. England.

[illegible]

"When war the Demon lifts his banner high,
"And loud artillery rends the affrighted sky;
"Swords clash with swords, on horses horses rush,
"Man tramples man, & nations nations crush,
"Death his vast scythe with sweeping murmur wields,
"And shuddering pity quits the sanguine fields."

No! these men are then at a safe distance, rioting on the "spoils", or, in case of defeat, cursing the soldiers for want of resolution in fighting the battles of "liberty and equality", à la Bonaparte. Aye! Delenda est Carthago! …ll they understand the motto, of the Roman

April 14 Tuesday. Fair morn, wind N.W. 29
small dry fair eve
the air cool.

Lease of a place — Yesterday Mrs. Baker rented her quarters to my house, which I have leased to her one year from the 1st of this month, Mr Greene the lessee last year, declining to have the place earlier. He is then Dr. to me for 13 days use of the house, since the last years lease closed. In case of an unlimited lease, the lessee becomes a tenant

Tenant at will — at will, and cannot be ousted from the place by an action, unless he has three months previous notice from the owner. This is so stated by a lawyer. Hence a written lease may be necessary to fix the the time, without other proof? But will not oral proof of the time be sufficient to bar the lessee from the right of a tenant at will?

The terms of law, as we find them in Books, appear to me in

Remarks on law — many instances, vague & arbitrary, & the study of Law extremely dry, & uninteresting to one conversant with other subjects. A lawyer is seldom a natural philosopher, nor the latter a lawyer. There seems to be something repellent between the two, — the one depending on precedent and practice, the other on fixed laws of nature, which admit of no variation, as the laws of gravitation, chemistry &c. But no branch of science gives greater eclat than the study & practice of law; Hence we generally find the profession at the head of our political institutions.

90 Wednesday. Morn fair after
April. a small shower, — wind NW:
15. day fine & cool.

This day mean solar & mean apparent time coincident.

Mr Webster's speech in the Senate last week, seems to have produced some perturbation in the honorable gentlemen who received his castigation for their misrepresentation of the Ashburton treaty. It now remains for them to replace the blinders Mr Webster has removed from the eyes of their constituents. These gentlemen may at length learn, that their deceptions will not pass with impunity in the presence of the eagle-eyed members of the Senate; — or, as the Lectures prove that says: — "Those who are anxious to appear wise among the ignorant, usually appear ignorant in the company of the wise." ~~The wise~~ The respectable portion of the people of New-York, require a more dignified representation in the Senate of the U. States, — men whose intelligence and integrity demand respect. The design of the clamour against the Ashburton treaty is obvious, and needs no explanation. As it respects the boundary established by that treaty, every true patriot in the U States acknowledges its justice & wisdom; and is ready to thank Mr Webster for the agency he took in the business. Fortunately for the U. States, the boundary was adjusted prior to the commencement of the present "[illegible]" administration

Effect of Mr. Webster's speech

New york Senators nettled

Mr Webster's agency.

April 15 Pledged, according to Senator Hannegan, to maintain the democratic claim to the whole of Oregon, up to 54.40, or fight Great Britain per fas et nefas, a noble position for a President of the U. States who is bound to "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, and promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity"!

Mr Polks pledge

16 Thursday. Morn fair, wind S.W., and cold air; the day fair throughout & very clear. Yesterday Joseph Henry Esqr. of Halifax arrived at our house, and this morning left us for Boston, which he has for many years visited annually about this season. In him I find one of the true old federalists of the Washington school, who is not twisted about by the utopian theories & innovations of our modern boys, who seem to think we are in rapid progress towards perfection in political sentiments, which are to set aside all former systems of Government and old modes of thinking, as well as trade. Mr Henry is fully aware of the wildness of these innovations, and holds a steady course in his political opinions. More of this sort of politicians are wanted in the United States, as balance wheels in our political machine, now liable to great irregularities, and we fear, to final destruction from new modes of proceeding

Call of an old friend

91

92. April 16. I am just informed that a party is now at work to prevent a reappointment of John Nevins Esqr to the office of Sheriff of our County, in which, I believe, he has served with faithfulness and ability, during the term for which he was appointed. This is a specimen of the vacillatory tendency of political sentiment at this day. An officer may serve in the most faithful and satisfactory manner, and still be sure of finding enemies, or rather those in want of place. The notion of rotation in office is idle. When an officer has done his duty well, and is still capable and honest, continue him in office and reap the advantages of his experience. To adopt a different mode, is to throw us into confusion, and men of sound judgment and discrimination, will not readily consent to serve in important stations. "When impious men bear sway, the post of honor is a private station." I readily placed my name to a petition to our Governor, asking for Sheriff Nevins reappointment; and I trust his Excellency will perceive at a glance the cause of the complaint against him viz: the want of place by the applicants.

[Margin: Sheriff Nevins] [Margin: Office seekers] [Margin: Remarks]

" I'll no say men are villains a';
The real harden'd wicked,
" Who hae nae check but human law,
Are to a few restricted:
" But och! mankind are unco weak,
An' little to be trusted;
" If self the wavering balance shake,
" It's rarely right ad

April Friday: Fair morn, - wind
17. SW. in the day generally clear —
Our farmers have commenced
plowing the meadow lands, a time
earlier than is common of late
years. Early sowing is supposed
to be advantageous to some crops,
especially those that are not cut
by late frosts, which sometimes
occur in May & June. Early planted
seeds are, perhaps, less exposed to in
sects, than those put into the ground
late, when the heat of the soil
has hatched the predatory insects;
and they are said to be most de
structive in the larvae state. If
their crops could be raised af
ter the insects have passed into
the pupa state, would they not be less
destructive? But this is impracti
cable where the whole season is
required to bring the crop to ma
turity. The subject requires care
ful examination, which might
afford light of importance to the
farmer. Mr Gaylord in his prize
Essay, published in the Transactions
of the New-york agricultural Society,
Vol. 3. has given some useful hints
on the subject, which I think are
worthy of attention. —

(Margin notes: Plowing commenced; Predatory insects; Gaylord's Essay)

— Our Supreme Court is in Session
at Greenfield this week — Judge Dew
ey presiding. The important bu
... at their courts involve many pa
... to attend them, and have the

(Margin note: Supreme Court)

94 loquacious Lawyer displays his
April skill in his pleas, and often charms
17. the people by his oratory, and some
times obfuscates the judgment of the
jury until the fog is cleared away by
the charge of the judge.
Judges 95 The judges of this Court, are generally men of high acquirements, and
from their intercourse with the peo
ple in all parts of the State, & of all
discriptions, they obtain much
knowledge of the human character.
In my intercourse with them, I have
found them possessed of expanded
views on other subjects, not imme
Eminent men diately connected with law, and
even estimating the value of natu
ral philosophy, so much stultified
by the gentlemen of the law
while acting in lower grades and
less extended views. Give men of sound
talents, elevation in society, & they will
feel their obligations to be good and will
as great. This I am aware is contrary
to the notions of democracy, which
holds that great men are constitutionally
and enemies to the common people
a most dangerous impression in a re
public, and productive of great evil.
Downward course of Democracy When great and good men are repu
diated, our country is on a rapid
march to distress and destruction.
This downward course may be slow
but it will accelerate like other falling
bodies, until it reaches the lowest level,
when the people may, too late, perceive
this depressed condition fatally visit
ed upon them & their posterity.

April 17 A Report of the Astronomical & Trigonometrical Survey of this State, has been made and published by our State Secretary, on the call of the Legislature, with tables & a map. Was this Report made out without consulting Messrs. Paine and Borden, from whom it ought to have come? The course is rather singular, and some doubts may be entertained as to the accuracy of the report, without their experimental information. The Secretary (Mr Palfrey), no doubt has dressed out the report in handsome language; but when he comes to deal with Chronometers, Spherical triangles, Logarithms &c. it would be singular if he should not have found himself out of place. When La Perouse sent home the journal of his voyage from Kamschatka, to the French Government, he requested that if it should be published before his return, it might not be prepared by a purely literary scholar, who would sacrifice accuracy to mathematical points & elegant style. The request was a wise one, and the final report of the voyage, so far as known, was made then by an able French astronomer. The Secretary may be an astronomer, but, if so, his studies must have been different from that of most of his brother theologians. Mr. Borden's report had previously been published by an astronomical society in Philadelphia & ought to have been inserted in the transactions of our Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Re port of our State Survey

by Mr Pal- frey

See Page 118.

94

April 18 — Saturday — Rain morn, wind S.W. followed by a clear and warm day; at sun set cloudy, distant thunder — wind N.W. & threatening a shower —

[Congress] During the past week we have heard of no proceedings of Congress in relation to war preparations, as recommended by our "pledged" President. In the House it is said, a bill has past for raising one regiment of rifle men for the protection of the Oregon emigrants, on their march through the woods. But the bill may meet a rebuff in the Senate, who appear not equally ready to adopt the plans of the President. Thus far, that body has been a check upon the wild majority of the House, and we look to their continued wisdom, to prevent an unnecessary war for a paltry patch of wild land, of no more value to us than an equal area in the moon. With a peaceful & friendly disposition on our part, the dispute might be settled within an hour. But Mr Polk's pledges must be redeemed, or his party will "hang him" so low, that the resurrection will not find "time". Old Great Britain must be destroyed, and American liberty diffused over the world, — yes! liberty which denies all participation in the government, to all who do not believe in the immaculate purity of the dominant party, without regard to talent, justice, or virtue. Such a government presents small claims to the esteem of the civilized nations of the world, where honesty & talent are considered as commendable qualities.

[Margin notes: Con-gress; ...ting the last week; Mr Polk's pledge; Amer... liberty its character]

April 18 } Our Government might, indeed, be the best in the world; but when the people become corrupt it is the worst. A judicious writer on Government (Montesquieu if I mistake not.) says: "Under the Democratical form, public virtue, pervading the hearts and conduct of the whole body of the people, is the animating and sustaining principle. Every selfish and exclusive purpose must be relinquished by the individual; and his country, its glory, and its happiness, must take entire possession of his breast: Proud distinction for popular Government! and happy the ^noble ^country where it is established, if the principle were a sure consequence of the form!"

Essential principles of a republic

But where is such a people found; surely not within the United States at the present time — So far from this "public virtue" are we, that the reverse is constantly presented to our view. We boast of progress, but let it be remembered that progress is not always improvement: it may be the reverse.

Of progress

The French Revolution was progress, but it was progress in death & destruction, and in what did it end?

We wish not for a repetition of the horrible ^carnage which paved Europe with bones and deluged the land with blood. From such progress may the people of the United States continue exempted, and learn duly to appreciate the blessings of peace; and may they

1848 April 18. fraud into oblivion the pretended patriots, who would recklessly plunge them into a needless war, for the gratification of a base passion incompatible with the refinement of a civilized society; and thereby impede the improvements, happiness and prosperity of our Country.

Pretended patriots

19 Sunday: Moon fair, wind W. and very clear day.
Last night some rain, with lightning and thunder.

Sunday meetings

On Sundays our people generally attend meetings and listen to pulpit lectures on theology, but with different views. In the Unitarian congregation, Christianity is presented as a system coincident with the reason of man, and a natural religion, as it appears in the phenomena of nature, and much stress is laid upon moral principles to be essential in society. In the congregation which claims to be of the pure religion of the Bible, less stress is laid upon moral obligations and faith and belief in, which they do not nor cannot understand, is substituted for religion. Men, say they, may be strict moralists and good citizens, and still irreligious in their conduct, as I have been informed by one of the sect. They pay divine adoration to the man Jesus as a God; and this is attempted to be reconciled by the jargon of an assumed Trinity of three persons in one

Various sects

Orthodox strict

what

which they think is foretold in the Bible, believing at the same time that they possess internal light from above, which is withheld from a great portion of their fellow beings; and that without this internal light, men are incapable of performing their duty, or of knowing the truth; yet are responsible for their thoughts and actions. In short, that men, in what they call a state of nature, are incapable of one good action or thought.

When men have arrived at such a belief, it is idle to attempt to reason them out of their mania. Fortunately for the society in which they live, they are generally honest men who have not lost all their moral obligations by the extravagance of the system in which they profess to believe. But when their enthusiasm runs high, they are sometimes seen to disturb the harmony of society by their supposed internal light, which defies the bounds of human reason, and casts off all restraints, excepting those they claim supernaturally communicated to their minds from above. All these pretensions may be the ~~result~~ infirmities of feeble minds unsettled by fixed principles, or the growth of imagination in those of a higher order. On the Subject of Enthusiasm, See Locke on the Human Understanding; Book 4 — Chap 19. Vol. 2. Boston Edition. 1813.

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April 20 — Monday. Mor: fair, with N.W. wind and fine day. My son, wife & little Charles set out for Chicopee falls, to on a journey, from that place, to Boston.

Fluttering produced by Mr Webster's Speech — The fluttering among our Wise Heads, caused by Mr Webster's Speech in the senate, is now rife, not only among those night birds, but among those who have endeavored to render the Ashburton treaty unpopular, by false representation held out to gull the people; and they are now sharpening their bills & claws to pounce upon him, and to glut their carnivorous maws. Mr Ingersoll, a member of the House from Pennsylvania, winces violently under the castigation he has received for his falsehoods in relation to that treaty. This is natural to condemned culprit or as the Poet says;

"No man e'er felt the halter draw,
With good opinion of the law;
"Or held in method other day
"His love of justice, in the stocks;
"Or fail'd to lose by sheriff's shears
"At once his loyalty and ears."

Every leaf unturned will now be resorted to find something to lessen the public esteem for Mr Webster; and even his school-boy indiscretions, if any, in one manner, will be brought up in the place of arguments to confute his irresistible deductions. — as Not less severe were these friends of the people on the character of Washington when he retired from the Presidency, as well as on the characters of his compatriots. See Callender's "Prospect", & Bache's & other papers of the times.

april 20 } Whether the people of the United States will much longer consent to be guilted by pretenders to liberty, is to be seen. In the Revolution in France Jacobinism ran its course, and the history of Robespierre records its termination: But Bonaparte, through an economy to these clans, continued the war they had created, until he was whipped in Russia, and prostrated at Waterloo, and finally found himself an exile in St. Helena, where he was no longer able to disturb the repose of the world.

Mr Webster's fame is well established in the minds of every friend of his country; but some of our ultra democrats hope for his fall, for daring to detect the falsehoods of some of the leaders of their party, as if he were vulnerable to the attacks of malignity.

Should the time come in which honesty, talent & fidelity shall be the criterion in the selection of men for elevated stations, we may then experience less of base party spirit, and become a people deserving the name of republicans, honored abroad & happy at home. How far from this is our present condition! The cause is obvious, and requires but a short answer: all are not honest and honorable men, seeking the welfare of our country.

In vain then, do we look for purity in our election bodies, since the question at the ballot boxes is not whether the candidate is honest & capable, but if he is of our party.

April 21. Tuesday. Morn. fine; wind S.W. and a fair day & warm air followed.

Sessi on of the General Court closed. Our General Court closed its session on the 16th instant, after 100 days, including Sundays. It is said the session has been a busy one; but would it not be more correct to apply this exclusively to the Committees, while the other members have found much leisure. Previous to the close, it was resolved that each member should be furnished with the trigonometrical map of the Commonwealth.

Grant of State Map to members. a pretty handsome Bonus; the right of granting which, I confess, I have had some doubts: why not make other gratuitous grants of the States property? say lands, water-privileges &c in Maine owned by the Commonwealth. But the practice has precedent in its favor, but it may be contrary to the intent and meaning of the Constitution. The members, it is true fix their pay, and this being determined, seems to preclude a further sum during their term of service. For extra service beyond the usual duties, additional fees may be proper; and hence it has been thought that the Committees sitting in the lobbies might justly claim a quid pro quo; but on this ground, would it not be just to deduct from the pay of these unemployed members?

Pay of members. The pay of two dollars per day and about is to be taken, of which one dollar for board, a small compensation for one qualified for a member: but this is

April a necessary consequence of the large
21. representation of the state; and so long as this continues, the pay must be stinted; for the aggregate still amounts to a large sum.
A different mode of transacting the business, as I have suggested (page 74) would remove the difficulty, ~~and~~ shorten the sessions. and anchor all the members in their seats. The present cost of a session cannot be much short of 100.000 dollars. a considerable sum for a small State. Putting together the expenses of all the states in our Union, and that of Congress, it would amount to an enormous sum for Legislation.

Congress <u>Congress.</u> The Oregon <u>notice</u> <u>resolution</u> passed the Senate on thursday last, as offered by Mr Johnson (of Md) by a vote of 40 to 14, of whom there were 12 democrats & two whigs in the negative: the resolution authorising the President to give the notice at his discretion, and recommending further negociation. The bill, of course, will be sent to the House for concurrence, and will its war hawks insist on Lat. 54.40? — then let them prepare for fight. But the good sense of the Senate will check their impetuosity, and we believe, preserve peace, until some other <u>bone</u> is presented for them to gnaw.

Mexico In Mexico the aspects are warlike; the opposing armies are said to occupy opposite banks of the Rio Grande, prepared for battle, and nothing but the deranged state of that Country prevents a con-
flict.

1844 If in fact Mexico is unable to defend her
April territory, she may resign her sovereignty
21 and be annexed to the United States—
a plan, no doubt, within the views of
some of the friends of liberty, in the U.
Re- States. This is "Progress" by which all men
marks are to be made free, excepting the blacks who
were created to be slaves to the whites, to
be used as horses & cattle.

The next step in the House will proba-
The bly be extension of the laws of the United
next States over the whole of Oregon, with the
step. hope that this may effect their long
cherished object,—a war with Great
Britain; but here the wisdom of the
Senate will, it is believed, again interpose &
save us from the frenzy of the House.
Wise men will keep an eye on the war
hawks of that body, and save us from
the horrors of a conflict.

our Many of our peaceful citizens see no
peace probability of a war at this time. A
ful more thorough knowledge of Jacobinic
citi democracy would change their views.
zens With the present spirit of the majority
of the house of representatives in Congress,
how long should we remain in peace with-
out the wisdom of the senate, which holds
in check the rash impetuosity of that
Slave majority? Without that check we might
labor at this time, been plunged into the
securi depths of a ruinous contest, and in
ty. what it would have ended, none can
tell. We may however be pretty sure
that it would not be advantageous to
our nation; our welfare depending
wholly on intercourse & good agreement
with the civilized nations of the world,
and war another [illegible] of a pretty [illegible] & happiness.

Your 21. The same spirit produced the war of 1812; & it taught us the folly of plunging into to it, without being prepared for military operations. At that time it seemed to be the impression of President Madison, that to issue orders to an undisciplined militia was all that was necessary for the conquest of Canada and the protection of our sea coast.

War of 1812

The battle of Bladensburg & utterly Washington City convinced him of his egregious error; and he sought peace without regard to the original bone of contention, the right of searching our ships; But the consideration of militia prowess is still retained by those who know nothing of ~~systematic~~ war, beyond its show, ribbons, feathers and cockades: the great and important points in the military history of the times.

Julss ... ~~tions~~ ...

Before we boast of our strength as a military nation, these false estimates must be abandoned, and a portion of our people taught how to fight, by the iron bands of discipline, where even the names of republican rights, and liberty and equality, are unknown, ~~and~~ subordination and implicit obedience of orders ~~are~~ instilled into ~~the~~ the hearts of the soldiers, whose glory and soul is to obey. When we can show an army of 80 or 100 thousand men of this character, and sufficient arsenals, foundries, magazines and strongly fortified positions we may boast of our prowess.

and capacity for war

104 But democracy, looks not with tardy
April preparation, — she shouts Lexington!
21. Bunkers-hill, Bennington, the spirit of seventy six one is ready, ~~cit~~ longer, a blaze!! Stupid delusion! — based on profound ignorance of the art of war as now practiced by the warlike nations of Europe: when their armies are conducted by a Wellington or a Bonaparte.

22 Wednesday. Morn fair, wind N.E.; day hazy, cloudy at Night & wind SW.

Among the ~~new~~ birds of President Polks priority, in the house of Representatives, none have exhibited more unea

Mr Webster's experiments — sines than C.J. Mr Ingersoll of Pennsylvania, whom Mr Webster so severely castigated for his various false statements. Noticing him in his speech, Mr Webster said, "He sometimes thought the propensity to falsehood in Mr Ingersoll arose from no malice

Mr Ingersoll — or design, but from an obtuseness of moral perception, from a sort of habit or education; his mind is so grotesque it is rather the caricature of a mind: there is something wanting": And, using the expression of mechanics when things are wrong, he added — "a screw was loose it is shaking, rickety, crazy, out of joint, as often upside down as upside up: it is always and no ways"!!

Mr Ingersoll had recently published a history of the war of 1812. ~~From~~

His history of the last war — ~~which~~ ongly stated the Mr Webster read a statement of some length, and then declared the whole a falsehood from beginning to end. Mr Ingersoll writhes

April 22. under the lash, and charges Mr Webster with being a public defaulter and with every thing vile in the human character. Tells attempt of an irritated man, whose "obtuseness of mind" may now become public, and the character of his book be duly estimated. Already we have seen ~~the~~ a point of his stating relating to the naval operations, contradicted by some of its officers. We have seen Mr Ingersoll to reap the fruits of his honorable course. Other gentlemen might be named who are disposed to asperse Mr Webster with equal rancour. They hate him for his talents & notoriety, but we trust he is invulnerable to the base attacks of his implacable enemies, who will never forgive him for the noble and able services he rendered his Country in the adjustment of our N.E. boundary, which they had hoped would have produced a war with Great Britain for no better motive than feeding a cannibal appetite.

When these restless men shall cease to disturb the repose of the world and high minded honorable men shall take their places in the Councils of our nation, mild peace and its concomitant benefits will continue, and the people, sitting under their "own ~~vines~~ vines & fig trees", enjoy that happiness intended for rational beings, away then with all national prejudices, the bane of contracted minds & the ready despair of demagogues, whose subsistence is anarchy and spoil, & their pastimes the misery of honest citizens.

108. **Thursday.** Fair warm, wind NW.
April most of the day was cloudy
23

Vegetation advance of [illegible] — Some of the trees and shrubbery are putting forth leaves, and vegetable nature is "bursting into birth"!

"Above how high, progressive life may go;
"Around, how wide! how deep extend below!
"Vast chain of being! which from God began,
"Nature's ethereal, human, angel, man,
"Beast, bird, fish, insect! what no eye can see,
"No glass can reach! from infinite to thee"

Reflections — By a careful observance of the course of nature the reflecting man finds much for his admiration, and if in some instances he perceives what he calls physical evils, he may distrust his judgment; for "God sends not ill, if rightly understood." The whole of the machine of the universe is, beyond a doubt, wisely constructed and continued in perfect order by the laws of its creator; nor
"Think we, like some weak prince, the eternal cause
"Prone for his favorites to reverse his laws"
Yet man sometimes forgets himself and asks for a variation of the laws, as
"When the loose mountain trembles from on high
"Will gravitation cease if he goes by?"

our duty — It is then our duty to adapt our plans & schemes to the wise laws of nature as we find them;
"Yet not to earth's contracted span
"Thy goodness let me bound,
"Or think thee Lord, alone of man,
"When thousand worlds are round."

April 23 } I cannot close the subject more appropriately than in words of the same poet:
"This day, be bread and peace my lot;
" All else beneath the sun
" Thou know'st if best bestow'd or not,
" And let thy will be done";
And, in the following reverential aspiration:
" To thee, whose temple is all space,
" Whose altar, earth, sea skies,
" One chorus, let all beings raise!
" All nature's incense rise!

24 Friday. Morn thinly clouded, wind SW, and the day the same.

Steam ship news } The steam ship Caledonia arrived at Boston on 20th instant, (14 1/4 days) from Liverpool, bringing accounts of two more severe battles fought in India between the British and Sikhs, which resulted in the defeat of the latter, with their immense artillery, baggage &c. and has terminated the war. The loss of the Sikhs was prodigious, more severe on the part of the British.

two great battles in India } The first Battle was fought by Sir H. Smith; the second by Sir Hugh Gough: in the former, the Sikhs were driven over a broad river, their camp 54 pieces of cannon, baggage, stores of ammunition, and grain, all wrested from them by repeated charges of cavalry & infantry. In Sir H. Gough's, they are said to have lost 12.000 and 65 pieces of artillery; the British 320, & 2063 wounded

 The numerical strength of the

April 24. opposing armies is not given. In all the battles fought in India between the British & Native forces the number of the latter has been great, often furnished with vast trains of artillery; but generally found unable to cope with regularly disciplined troops of the European school. The sikhs, it is said, have been considerably instructed on the parade, but they lack that steady discipline and mechanical execution, found in experienced veterans of the present day. Their error seems to have been in attempting to fight in large bodies in the open field, where regular troops possess great advantages from their facilities of movement in combined actions.

Remark on the Battles.

Men may be athletic and brave, but without being habituated to combined effort & mechanical movement, they are weak, and liable to confusion, and more especially when acting in large bodies.

(and on troops generally)

An undisciplined army is generally most successful, when it acts in light flying detachments, as in a partizan-war; especially if the country is broken or covered with woods.

In a regular pitched battle, in open ground, against trained and experienced troops, numerical superiority is of little importance, and seldom gains a victory. In our last war the steps taken by General Hinder

(Numerical force)

[illegible] at Bladensburg, was obviously faulty 111
*24 3 Had he employed the main part of his force in acting against the right and rear of General Ross on his advance, the result would probably have been different. In the engagement in the open field, Winder's force was put to flight by the light Brigade of Ross' army. In a war with great Britain without a competent regular force & other preparations, we should be liable to similar disasters.

Bladensburg Battle

The great military error of the people of our country, is "the false estimation placed on numbers, and native bravery, without discipline and experience. Give our men the same discipline possessed by, the English, or French, and they become equally as firm & able troops.
The defeats of the Sikhs ought to teach us useful lessons: Their numerical force was great, their artillery ample, & their munitions & other stores abundant; yet they were beaten in every action by much smaller numbers of their enemy.
Such then is the perfection to which the art of war is carried by the great civilized nations of Europe, that men not thoroughly instructed in the art, are of little worth in a field of battle;
They may render some service by their skillful shooting from behind fortified works, where it is [illegible] dangerous to stand there to retreat, but in open ground in front of a disciplined enemy [illegible] battle cannot be relied on. The

April 24. The disciplined soldier may possess no more native courage than the peaceable farmer, mechanic or other man, but he has learned that to flinch from his duty and retreat from danger without orders from his officer, is certain death; and the latter stands his ground because to flinch, his reputation will be lost, among his associates, to which his pride will will not consent. And here we see the difference between the soldier and citizen.

If then we would become a military nation, we must sink the amiable virtues of the citizen in the case hardening process of the soldier; and what patriot would prefer this, to our present condition

If we find among our north-western woodsmen, those who would plunge us into a war for the possession of a useless strip of wild land, look at their motives, and we shall readily perceive that the security and happiness of our Country is less sought for, than their ~~own~~ selfish aggrandizement, or elevation to public notice. It is time for the people to ~~learn~~ ~~to~~ discriminate between such men, and those who are honest and striving for the welfare of our Country.

25 Saturday Morn fair — wind N.E. and fair day; the air of lower temperature than yesterday

April 25. I have just perused Doctor Albert C. Koch's account of the skeleton of the Hydrarchos Harlani or the Fossil Reptile discovered by him in the State of Alabama; containing also Geological observations made on different formations of the rocks, during a geological Tour through the eastern, western and southern parts of the United States, in 1844-1845. It is comprised in a pamphlet of 24 pages and is interesting to the Philosopher. The skeleton measures 114 feet in length and weighs 7500 lbs in a petrified state. Professor Silliman, who has examined it, thinks its length would reach at least 130 feet, if the cartilage were restored to the articulations of his vertebrae, and that he is akin to the Sea Serpent recently seen on & near our sea coast. Dr. Koch supposes him the same animal noticed by Job (41st Chapter) under the name of Leviathan. The author is a German geologist & corresponding member of the societies of Halle and of Dresden.

Koch's Hydrarchos

The speculations concerning Geological Chronology, and the time the Hydrarchos was immersed in the soil, or rock in which it was found, are mostly conjectural, and theoretical, and of little weight,— 4.464.000 years are put down for the time (pages 19 & 20). That mentioned and

114 and what length of time has elapsed
April 25. from the "Beginning" to his creation, is not, & probably, never will be, known by us. Even the histories we possess of the ancient world, are limited and doubtful; but geology is presenting many interesting facts by its discoveries.

Eclipse of Sun. This day an Eclipse of the Sun in Gemini: beginning at Boston according to Dickinson's almanac
11–15 M. } mean time. Magnitude 6–39
End 1–53 A. } we noticed it by smoked glass

Remarks on astronomy. The accuracy with which eclipses are calculated, demonstrates the perfection of astronomy. The irregularities of the moon's motion would seem to have rendered this accuracy impossible. But through the labours of Mayer, and more recently those of La Place, this part of astronomy is rendered as accurate as practice requires. and most of the calculations in astronomy, are now made with wonderful exactness; and in fact, none of our sciences are more perfect. All the improvement we can now look for, is a more perfect construction of instruments & in the use of them. But it is hardly to be expected that any artists will excel

Instruments. the celebrated Troughton of England; and if they continue his extraordinary skill, we may reckon ourselves fortunate. To determine angles

Difficulty of accurate observation. down to seconds, requires a perfection in instruments beyond the unassisted power of man; though by verniers & magnifying glasses

April 25. glasses, it is attempted. But if an instrument be, at first, thus perfect, it soon becomes otherwise, and requires correction. Another difficulty is to construct them without eccentricity, which is as critical as the graduation. But as no instrument is perfect, the best mode is the reading off the angle on different points of the limb, repeating the observations, and taking a mean of the whole; still some error will remain, but we may be sure that it will be small. Our artists in this country seem not to be fully aware of these difficulties, and we hear them confidently assert, that they can construct perfect angular instruments.

To avoid error in observation (margin)

Optical instruments require less nicety, since the desiderata in them is their magnifying power; but the micrometers attached to them, require angular accuracy.

Optical instruments (margin)

Could we mark out a great circle in the heavens, and divide it into degrees, minutes & seconds, by our most perfect instruments, we should perceive inequalities in them; and a perfect equality in these divisions is the desideratum in an astronomical Instrument.

No perfect instruments (margin)

For operations in Geography, Surveying & Engineering, less perfect instruments answer the purpose; but these are but approximations.

"Thou say not, Man's imperfect, heaven in fault,
"Say rather man's as perfect as he ought;
"His knowledge measured to his state and place,
"His time a moment, & a point his space."

Yet he is capable of high progress in the arts & sciences and when we behold a Newton, a La Place, we ask if they are mortal men

114

April 24 **Sunday**. Morn fair wind N. and day clear; the air rather cool; our street maples exhibit a green hue & blossoms.

"Shout we there with Nature's voice, "Welcome Spring! Rejoice! Rejoice!" —

Reflections on vegetation: Such bursts of feeling, are natural on seeing the spring progress of vegetation; and where, we ask, rested this vivifying principle during the cold season? We say heat produces the phenomena, but this is but a secondary cause; for there

And the first cause: must be a cause of causes, embracing design and adaptation to condition. But when we attempt to scan this great power, we are lost, and can only say, such a power exists, and extends through all parts of the universe — with this belief, all appears harmonious in the phenomena of nature; but without it, all confusion & blind chance. Some, however, say that if God exists, there must have been a cause of his existence, and thus they must admit a series of causes, ad infinitum; but why not stop at one first cause.

"Know then thyself, presume not God to scan;
"The proper study of mankind is man."

In this study of man, it is not to be supposed the poet would prohibit the study of Deity, so far as our capacity extends; but to caution us against those that are beyond our powers of mind & comprehension. We cannot scan the Deity; but we can find indubitable evidence of his

April existence and Superintending providence 117
24 and from the general phenomena of nature we may be sure of his benevolence as well as wisdom and power. Of his other attributes we have little knowledge other than that they cannot be incompatible with those enumerated; and all intelligent minds perceive his existence at a glance. If minds less elevated require objects of the senses to impress the idea; they generally possess it, though sometimes grossly:

"Lo! the poor Indian whose untutor'd mind,
"Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind."

The enquiry of Job (Chap. 11 verse 7) "Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?" involves two answers: 1st. Canst thou find &c. This may be answered affirmatively; the 2d in relation to his attributes & perfections is beyond the extent of our faculties, and must be decided in the negative. When then we find men going beyond these revelations, we may justly doubt their wis claim; and these are generally men of an enthusiastic temperament, who deal in mystery and imagination, as wild as their enthusiasm.

27 Monday. Fair morn, wind N.E. and our moderate day clear; My son & his wife returned from Chesapeake Bay & he from Boston, where he saw my old friend Simeon Borden Esqr. who sends me a pamphlet of 117 large pages containing the results of his trigonometrical Survey published for the Legislature by Mr Palfrey Secretary;

118. The formulae and mathematical
April Explanations ^were furnished by Mr Borden
27 and Mr Charles O. Boutelle, the "accom-
plished assistant" of Mr Borden, ^& now
of the United States Coast survey
Service, I think, full confidence may be
placed on the accuracy of the results and
tables included in Mr Palfrey's pamphlet.
(See my remarks on, page 95)

Importance of — Mr Borden's Survey, from which an
accurate map of the State has been pro-
jected, on a scale of 2½ miles to an inch,
(7 feet by 4½), will be found extensive-
ly useful on many occasions. The State
is now marked out by many posi-
tions, the Lat. and Long. of which are
accurately determined, as well as distances
calculated, with their bearings from each
other; so that a traveler in any part
of the State will know ^nearly his position
on the Earth very readily; and the
Land surveyor will easily ascertain
the variation of his needle, by observing
its deviation from any of the lines
given in position. By making use of
a given line as a base, he will also de-
termine his distance to other objects not
given in the tables, and thus triangulation
may be carried on to any extent with
accurate instruments. Other uses of the
survey are pointed out in Mr Palfrey's
pamphlet, page 5th of the Introduction.
The great value of the work will readily
be perceived by mathematical philosophers.

28 Tuesday. Morn fair, wind N. E.;
day continued clear & rather cool;
S.W. Several warm ^at night days have occurred
but in general I have found a moderate
fire necessary in my room. The ground
is now very dry & the roads dusty.

April 28 From the proceedings of Congress there seems to be little probabil-
ity of a war with England, and no
preparations for that purpose are
on the tapis; but in the House the
war spirit still continues; yet it
appears somewhat cooled, by the
correct attitude of the Senate.

Congress no preparations for war

How important then is this branch
of the Government, to check the reck-
less proceedings of the more demo
cratic part. By some the Senate has
been held as an unnecessary division,
but the check they have given the House
in their designs, in the present dispute
with Great Britain, demonstrates the
importance of that branch, in the clear
est manner. Without this check we
should, no doubt by this time, have
been engaged in a war, and our country
reaping its bitter fruits at the expense
of our prosperity, & for no other cause
than a deep hatred to England. But Mr
Polk and his party, may at length find
that we are not a military nation, and
that peace and good agreement between
us and the nations of Europe, is essential
to our prosperity. As respects Mr Polk
alone, I think he would, at once, settle the
dispute with England, were he so per-
mitted by his party. If in compliance
with their wishes, he plunges us into war
let him not be surprised if even
his party, shall desert him when they
feel the deprivation & expenses the
war will produce. In a country
where the ballot boxes are open to
all, none need to be told where
to resort, to correct abused powers.
Mr Polk will keep an eye on those deposits
[illegible] & his confidants will not forget them.

Noble stand of the Senate

April 29. Wednesday. Fair morn, wind SW. but the sky soon covered with thin clouds which continued through the day; the air cool. a sprinkling of rain before night.

E. Florida Serpentine Company — A company by the name of the East Florida Serpentine Company, was incorporated at the late session the General Court, the object of which is to work the Black marble, or serpentine, quarry on the east side of Hoosacmountain in Florida, at a place called Kings meadow, near the south branch of Deerfield river. The company, I am informed, is commencing preparation to carry on the work.

Kings meadow — From specimens I have seen of the rock I think it must be valuable for ornamental buildings &c. It admits of a fine polish and is of a firm texture; the color dark, often black. Whether it can be worked profitably, I am not certain. A good stream of water will be necessary to work the machinery for the operations. The turnpike road from Charlemont to Adams, passes the quarry furnishing a convenient land conveyance. Should the enterprise be successful, King's meadow may become a place of consequence. It was first occupied by Jesse King Esqr of

Notice Jesse King Esqr. — this town, whose taste was thought singular in selecting a spot so solitary for a residence; but he was a man who saw beauties in wild scenery; and had

April 29 a taste for studying nature in its rough state; and possessed considerable acquirements in mathematics, which rendered him a good land Surveyor, and, I believe, something of a practical astronomer. With a knowledge of Geology, as now taught, he would have found among the mountains and abrupt precipices, surrounding his fertile meadows, much to gratify his inquiring mind. He was born in the village of Wappin, where the family resided, and removed to Florida in 1795, (according to Field's history of the town, inserted in that of the County of Berkshire, 1829.) The town of Florida includes what was called Bernardston grant of 7350 acres.

His scientific Taste

30 Thursday. Cloudy morn, wind N.E. rain last night. P.M. generally fair, and the air cool from the N.E.

Abstract of the Returns of Agricultural Societies of Massachusetts, for the year 1845 - 1 Vol. 8vo, 214 pages, has been published by John G. Palfrey, Secretary of the State, agreeably to the requisition of the General Court. The work though limited from want of more full returns from some of the Societies, contains much that is useful to all, and in future years will become more so, if the societies shall communicate all the particulars within their power. - I am pleased to see the efforts making to reclaim marshes & swamps, the planting forest trees, and restoring worn out lands to fertility. They

New Work

on Agri cult[ure]

April 30 — and the production of good manures are the great objects required for improvement in agriculture; and in no parts of the country are these operations so strikingly beneficial as in those where the land is naturally barren, or worn out. In new countries, where the soil is rich, manuring is little attended to; for it is not wanted, of course the attention of the farmers is turned to different objects; But they, at length, will find their lands loosing their fertility without the application of manures.

Soil's or where most useful

Could a combination of simple earth, be formed, which would insure permanent fertility in soils, the addition of manures would be useless; But this combination without the mixture of vegetable or animal matter, or their elementary principles, which admit of decomposition, would not form a fertile soil. Silex, clay and lime will form a cement for stone and brick walls, but without vegetable or animal matter, the compound is not fertile. The use of lime in agriculture is supposed to be the property it possesses of hastening the dissolution and putrefaction of all animal and vegetable matters, and of imparting to the soil a power of retaining a quantity of moisture for the growth of plants (Parkes' Chemical Catechism page 125)

Elements of fertility

Lime its operation

In the eastern parts of Massachusetts, there is much barren or worn out land, which may be partially flowed by water & can be redeemed only by draining

Barren land

April 30 and raising to a higher level, by the addition of proper earths or manures. It is in these sections of the State the benefits of agricultural societies may be felt. more than where the soil is fertile before cultivation, or is kept fertile by alluvial deposits: still all parts of the State will furnish employment for these societies, if composed of members capable of investigation of the laws which govern vegetation.

Hand man aged

Mr Palfrey's compilation, I believe, will have a useful effect in stimulating farmers to such investigations

May 1. Friday. Morn partially cloudy with N.W. wind; the day soon became fully cloudy & rain fell P.M.

The Oregon Notice Bill has passed the Senate by ayes 42 to 10 negatives the latter all full blooded Democrats. The Bill was agreed on by a conference committee of both houses, & is so divested of its war features that the war-hawks gave it their negative. In the House it was passed, 142 to 46. The President is authorised to give the notice "at his discretion", instead of the request of the two branches. The war party, it appears, are less violent in their howlings, & ready for the full swoops.

Congress

Passage of the Oregon bill

Mr Webster is now on a visit to Boston & Marshfield. During a short stop at Philadelphia, he was ~~[illegible]~~ visited by a committee of the townsmen of Mr Ingersoll, and invited to a public dinner, as a token of the views taken by them of the attempt of Mr I. to blacken Mr W's character. These townsmen pronounce Mr I's character in public and pr...

Mr Webster

1844 respect shown to Mr Webster, inclines
May to say the least, that Mr. Ingersoll's
1 townsmen are not displeased
Mr at the castigation he has received from
Inger the hand of Mr. Webster, & any more,
soll that it has been timely and deservedly inflicted.

2 Saturday. Cloudy morn - wind NE
the day continued partially cloudy
with occasional sun-shine

Con In the proceedings of the House of Representatives
gress at Washington, on the 27th April
we have the following: Mr C. J. Ingersoll
of Pennsylvania, made a personal explanation, in which he reiterated the charges
In he had made against Mr. Webster, of
ger unlawfully using the secret service funds;
soll of misapplying said fund to corrupt
vs the party press; and of leaving the De
Webs partment of State a defaulter to said fund:
ter Mr. Ashmun, our Representative,
replied, and reviewed the past history of
Mr Mr Ingersoll, showing that he had been
Ash the traducer & villifier of some of the
mun best men in the country, and among
others of Mr. Richard Stockton of New-Jersey. The scarifying which he got
on that occasion, he thought would
have deterred him from attempting
por the same thing again. He then alluded
trait to the conduct of Mr Ingersoll
of Mr while District attorney for the Eastern
I. District of Pennsylvania, and said that
General Jackson had dismissed him from
that office for mal-practices, or retention
of public funds. That he was a defaulter when he left the office, and
that it was two years after a judgment
had been obtained against him, before he paid ...

May 2. the amount. On this, his bro. then, J. R. Ingersoll, rose and said, he felt it his duty, as he had acted as council for his brother in the suit brought by the U States, to say, that his whole conduct as district attorney, had been highly honorable, and that he had repeatedly endeavored to get a settlement with the government, and at last only succeeded by withholding some public money in his hands to force a suit, to be brought against him.

Mr Ashmun said, he appreciated every thing coming from the Gentleman; and had no doubt that the opinion he had expressed of his brothers conduct was one which he really entertained. But he must place the facts before the House, and the members could then judge for themselves, unbiassed by personal relationship. As to the charges against Mr Webster, he pronounced them entirely false and said that Mr Tyler had borne testimony that no money had been drawn from the secret service fund, without his express authority. Mr A. said he knew of insidious efforts that had been made to prevail on Mr. Tyler to disavow the sanction he had given to those disbursments.

Mr Ingersoll inquired whether they were made by him? Mr Ashmun replied; By agents. Mr I. then said it was false – it was a lie. Mr A. said he was not to be drawn into a personal controversy with the aged member from Pennsylvania. He came from a part of the country where

126 to himself and his constituents.
May would not permit him to resort
2. to that method of settling differences.

Mr A's steady course — Mr I. said he was not aged, and applied several harsh expressions to Mr A. who went on a few moments and concluded his remarks.

A committee raised — It was then moved, that a committee of five be appointed to ascertain in what manner Mr Ingersoll had become possessed of information which the President had said could not be communicated to the house: An additional committee was also raised, with power to send for persons & papers to investigate the charges made by Mr I. against Mr Webster, with a view to the impeachment of the latter, if the charges should be proved: Passed without a division

Statement from the Boston Journal
April 30.

Remarks — Mr Ashmun's management in the affair will meet the approbation of his constituents, and show that while he possesses the spirit of an honorable gentleman, he has means of chastising audacity and falsehood, without resorting to the savage custom of southern chivalry in such cases.

The charges against Mr Webster by this mortified man, are of a character that his friends and the friends of the country who have long seen his able & faithful services, will not be believed? at once without evidence more creditable than the statements of one whose obliquities of mind, and aberrations from an honorable course ... notorious.

May 2. Finding himself sinking in the public estimation, Mr Ingersoll, to retard his descent, thinks it necessary to lessen the public esteem of Mr Webster, under the hope that the <u>negative</u> quantity taken from Mr Webster may be <u>positive</u> when added to his own..

In this attack on Mr Webster we perceive a reiteration of those made on President Washington by the Jacobins of his time viz: of having unlawfully drawn money from the public treasury for his private use, as it was pretended, to be proved by extracts from the books of the national treasury; and with other crimes in "abundant terms, as could be applied to a Nero, - to a notorious defaulter, - or even a common pickpocket." (See his letter to Mr Jefferson in 1794.)

Mr Webster's agency in adjusting <u>amicably</u>, our N.E. boundary is not forgotten by the leaders of democracy; for it removed one chance for a war with England; and they now seize on the Oregon boundary to effect their object. The good sense of the Senate may, however, defeat their designs.

3. <u>Sunday</u>. Cloudy morn; wind Westerly. P.M. generally clear; wind veered to N.E.

Some varieties of plum trees begin to show blossoms, while other flowering trees & shrubbery indicate that they are not far behind. The flowering trees

May 4 — Sinking of morals

Both in Europe and in America, in the city and the country, in the exchange and the Senate, and even in the academy, some worshipped other Gods than the true one, and men, educated men, were found worshipping with the least erected of the spirits that fell from heaven. [I make this abstract from the Boston Post of May 1st. it may be incorrect.]

Remarks on

Of the import of this last paragraph I am not certain. Does it mean that the institutions of learning, and educated men in high stations, both in Europe and America, are sinking into a state of heathenism as respects morals? This would be rather a poor compliment to pay to the science & literature of the institutions of learning. May not the impression have been produced by the rejection of the old fungus of the schools now pruned off by the shears of modern times? True indeed, I have thought that sound knowledge was on the

Light reading

decline among our people at large; but this I have attributed to the reading of News papers and light works of imagination, so much multiplied among us of late years; but I had supposed that men of sound science were making progress in the useful. If it be a fact that intellect is taking a down ward direction, and educated men are sliding into the descent, it is time to alter our modes of education, and to teach men how to ascend to a higher point in the scale of knowledge.

I will not here assert that our education [illegible] modern science & literature would

May place an educated man on higher
4 grounds; but I am compelled to say,
that many who receive their instruction
within the walls of some of our colleges, come out with but a smattering
of sound practical science ~~~~ ~~~~
~~~~ which their classical
studies excluded as foreign to a college
course. When we find instances
of scientific advance, it is where the
taste for sound knowledge has not
been smothered by a stronger taste
for classical pursuits and superficial gloss, which cause too many college students.

Mr Everett, however, as I have noticed, regards a classical education as the most fitting
and proper preparation for the
discharge of the civil duties of government, though he admitted there
were brilliant examples of success in
civil political life on the part of some
who had not enjoyed the advantages
of such an education; but these were
only "exceptions". In general he thought
those succeeded best in addressing juries
and Senates, who possessed classical
knowledge.

But as respects the Civilian, it strikes
me as a singular position to say, that
one well versed in the high literature
and science of modern times, is better
prepared for usefulness, than him,
who goes to ancient Greece & Rome
for his guides:- those valued ~~~~
~~~~ stores, as one observes, of Poetry
though not of Science.

As regards the abilities of the Law
advocate in addressing juries no doubt

132 his classical acquirements render
May him more discursive & voluble, since they
4. are ~~...~~ auxiliaries to
Orato- to oratory, which charms juries
ry. composed of men of unbalanced
minds. But it would be a matter
of regret to find the skill of these
orators so powerful as to obfuscate
the minds of our jurors, so far as
to induce them to agree on ~~un~~ unjust verdicts.
Its effects When oratory becomes
thus influential, it is a dangerous
power, before which justice and
right are in danger, and the high
criminal may escape deserved punishment.
But when a jury is composed of well informed men, oratory
may be dangerous becomes but the trimmings of language
and has little effect. Unfortunately
our juries are not always so composed,
and in such cases, the artful
orator may produce a dangerous
influence.

Mr. Everett's high acquirements in
classical knowledge may have led
Mr. Everett's high qualifications him to an undue estimation of their
value; but while he has been engaged
in that study, it is believed
he has not neglected others necessary
in his present position, to which
he has been elevated to the entire
satisfaction of the discerning part of
of our community; and no man,
within my knowledge, has equal claims
to his position.

5. Tuesday. Morn fair, - wind S.W.
and clear day, until towards sunset.
Our Rail road Our Rail road-diggers are now
breaking ground on the descent at

Mar 5 } Wilsons, shop in the valley north of Martins hill. The company have purchased this stand, as I am informed, for 1200 dollars, he to retain the

Ro of } buildings by deducting 75 dollars from the sum, and removing them. The road will be considerably elevated above our street, and when completed will form the principal point of the travel from our village. We think the location a singular one, as it crosses many

Bad loca tion } deep ravines, which might have been avoided. A depot, I am informed, is to be erected on Martin's hill. Shall we derive much advantage from this road? The answer is rather doubtful. The company look for a profit, but the cost of construction

Re mark on } repairs &c. may be too great for that. The impression is, that the value of the towns through which the road passes, will be enhanced, but this depends on the price of the products in the markets, which may be glutted by too great a supply.

Prin ciple } For example: The price of corn will not be enhanced at Boston by the rail roads, but rather reduced by a surplus, and the same with other articles. The freight will be less, and so will be the demand, and of course no advantage gained by the producer. Freight into the interior will also be reduced, but the demand not increased.

Popu lation limit of } The population of our principal marts is increasing, but there is a point beyond which they cannot go; and that of the interior depends, not on rail roads, but on its agricultural products.

In the present rage for railroads, there seems to be more zeal than cool calculation. Time will cool the rage:

134 May 6 — Wednesday. Morn cloudy, wind N.E.; P.M. thin clouds with sunshine, and wind S.W.

Texas & Mexico. The accounts from the frontiers of Texas and Mexico are of a war character, the armies having taken position on the opposite banks of the Rio-Grande. Our army about 4,000, and the Mexican somewhat greater.

Hostile aspect of. With a reliable government, the latter would not hesitate to commence a offensive war, in which case we might find something more formidable than our little army, to oppose them. But since they have submitted to our usurpation of Texas, they may deem it most prudent to submit to further impositions; yet they may prove a more powerful nation than we suppose them.

Remarks. If however, Mexico peaceably submits to our encroachments, she may give up her independence, or, at least, relinquish to us her northern territory clear to the gulf of California, on which our democrats keep an eye, without regard to what they call the old musty laws of nations. The plea is, diffusion of democratic liberty; and if a neighboring nation are unwilling to receive it, they must be forced to it, vi et armis. A sentiment worthy of Napoleon, the great Reformer of governments and of the Rights of man, whose tender mercies were aroused only when he beheld 10,000, or 20,000 of his fellow beings prostrate on his battle fields, to gratify his ambition. Is this the Liberty

May own vociferous friends of
6. the "rights of man" would impose upon their neighbors? Those Laraude, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, and others that were blest with the fraternal hug of the French Brig ands in their late revolution, can give us impressive lessons on its ennobling effects.

7 Thursday. Fair morn, wind NW. some frost seen upon the grass: the day partially cloudy. Eve N.E. wind.

Apple & cherry blossoms appeared, I believe rather earlier than common.

New York State Constitution —

The people of that State have elected their Delegates to revise their Constitution, and, it is said, the democrats have a majority. This, of course, in the other State, under its present political sentiments. If there are any material defects in their constitution, they are unknown to me. But I consider it no proof, that such exist, because the present majority there hold it to be so. Such is the innovating spirit of the time, that no constitution, however wisely contrived, can long remain without reform. Among the people there will always be found those who are unwilling to remain under salutary restraint or to see talents and worth promoted to elevated stations, for which they are incompetent. What will be the result of the revision is uncertain; but one thing is sure: If the wild democracy of the State is to dictate the plan, we may

136 May 7. say the revision will be a departure from correct principles, to those that will insure the demagogue greater facilities to places, within the gift of the uninformed part of community: and who will not regret to see the great State of New-York, thus sunk below the [struck] she ought to sustain.

New scan of its Constitution

There may be defects in the Constitution of the State, which admit of a remedy; but after so long and prosperous a condition of the people, it is not readily believed that these defects are great; and minor ones had better be submitted to, than to attempt material alterations, when the minds of the people are so distracted by the efforts of designing men, and thus to risk the introduction of those more pernicious. The bearings of protracted [struck] experience of the present time, render this caution important.

[illegible] Some [illegible] ins

Speaking of innovations upon forms of Government, General Washington says, "One method of assault may be to effect in the forms of the Constitution, alterations which will impair the energy of the system, and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown."

Washington cautions

Farewell address.

That there is yet sufficient discernment among the well disposed & informed people of the state of N. York to preserve a sound [struck] system of Government, is hoped; but its present political attitude promises no favorable issue in its democratic convention to whom the revision is intrusted; and it will be fortunately

People of N. York State

May 7. the fundamental principles which have been the basis of the State government, shall not in some instances be set aside for those that are utopian, and its liberty and prosperity of course rendered less secure.

The mass of the people, it is believed, are honest, and aim at the welfare of the State, but like others they are extremely liable to the deceptive arts of demagogues, who spare no efforts to deceive, and create prejudices against good men, who stand in the way of their promotion to office. This propensity is the bane of our government and proceeds from the admission to the ballot boxes of all sorts of characters, particularly in the State of New York where foreigners wholly unacquainted with our republican liberty, rights and social institutions, may freely deposit their votes, but generally as dictated by a leader as destitute of principle as themselves.

I have heretofore remarked, that in a political point of view, we are on a downward course, and that all eminently men of eminent talents & acquirements will be rejected at the ballot boxes; and almost daily we see this truth verified: A Clay will be rejected for some obscure candidate, who is supposed to be the "friend of the people", and whose talents do not elevate him above mediocrity. This being once adopted as a rule none of the honest talents may look for offices, and all will be equal.

This is the democratic enthusiasm of the day and the post of honor is becoming

138 According to a statement in the
May. Boston Post, quoted from the Al
7. bany Argus, the Delegates chosen
are; Democrats 76 } = 128.
Whigs — 45
Members chosen { Anti rent — 7
Democratic Majority, 24. If
then the Convention is to be gov
erned by a party, we may look
for an anomalous revision, But
it is presumed that some men of talents
will be found on the Convention,
who will hold in check wild pro
jects which may be brought for
ward to upset the basis of the present
Constitution, & thereby preserve the valu
able points. I have dwelt at
some length on this subject, be
cause I feel an interest in the wel-
fare of ~~that~~ state, and wish it to
continue respectable under the hope
that better men will at length be placed
in office, and the state resume
its former standing, when the
copatriots of Washington and
other men of the revolution,
were in the chair of state.

8. Friday. Morn cloudy, wind S.W.
P.M. Fair with broken clouds
and pleasant air: inviting to an
excursion in a carriage, which I
should improve, could I lift the
Reflections { arm as in days of Fingal. But
Leothan's ~~arm~~ arm thus failed his grey
locks wave around a staff on which
he leans, his steps are unequal, his eys
are dim, and he sits & hums the song to pleasant scenes & sports
of other times! But Leothan has had his day! Amen

Nov. 8 race has come, and they too may
be old and feeble, and sigh for days
that have past. Man's life is indeed short
and at all times uncertain, and he
often meets with disappointments; But if
he keeps his passions under due sub-
jection, reasons and reflects calmly, and endeav-
ors to act right, he may find much
for enjoyment, even in old age, pro-
vided he is favored with health, ~~and~~ avoiding
the great error of ~~[illegible]~~ imputing
to Providence things which are
caused by his own ~~[illegible]~~ indiscretion &
want of due foresight, when within
his command. Yet how often
we see man murmuring at the
effects of the laws of providence,
as if those laws were to be varied
or suspended, to favor his ~~[illegible]~~
designs & schemes.

"O! weakness! pride! impiety!"

9 Saturday. Cloudy morn, wind
NW. & N. day generally cloudy &
rain at Sun-set

During the present week we have
heard little or nothing of war pro-
ceedings in Congress, not even the
proposed Rifle Corps is established
to protect the Oregon emigrants on
their march through the woods to
the promised lands; and Mr. Polk's
line of Stockade forts yet remains to
be traced. The truth is, the War Hawks
have, in some degree, ceased their boast-
ing, since the Senate [illegible], [illegible]

 which upon their wild crusade &

May their tomahawks and scalping
9 knives must, of course, be laid up
The in their wigwams, for another
war opportunity. But Delenda est
boot Carthago is still the motto of a
subsid portion of our backwoodsmen, who
ing receive their lectures, on liberty, from
Stump orators, — who

"As Socrates of old at first did
"To air philosophy get hoisted,
"And found that his thoughts flew strongly
clear,
"Swung in a basket in mid air."

In the House, the clever friends of C. J.
The Ingersoll, are straining every nerve to
House find some slip of Mr. Webster in the
management of the secret service fund
under the administration of Mr.
Tyler; and the late castigation
so appositely bestowed on one of the
gentlemen, by Mr. Ashmun, still
galls & frets, not only the castigated
individual, but his democratic brethren
to whose plans and insidious measures
Mr. Webster is a powerful obstruction.
From the broken condition of the
Whig party one favorable symptom
the is presented: they will not easily
Whig unite in other measures immedi-
party ately destructive to the liberties of the
country, and, are [illegible] comp
mey, we would hope, [illegible] for a time.
Place a Washington at our head
2 patriots of the same stamp in both
[illegible] of Congress, and our country

May 9. would at once, burst forth in its glory, and political happiness and more pervade the Union.
But alas! Demagogues would at, length again infest our land, order be inverted, the people be pitted against each other at the ballot boxes, and good men again be rejected from the national councils, and all this for the redness of supposed abuses, perhaps no where existing except in the heads of those who imagine them. This is the natural consequence in a government where universal suffrage is the basis and the people can be misled by artful, unprincipled men. To contrive a balance wheel in our machine of government, that should remedy the evil, would be a difficult task. Perhaps a general diffusion of useful knowledge (~~including strict moral principles~~) offers the most effectual remedy, were it practicable.

But in this general knowledge something more than rudimental instruction must be included. It must contain a strict code of morals, a consistent religious belief "founded on conviction and the sound dictates of reason and cultivated conscience", embracing a sense of a superintending Deity, who will not behold conscious wrong with impunity.

As respects different modes of religious belief, and worship adopted by various sects, ceremonies they may not be of the importance they have been supposed, provided they embrace the fundamental prin-

May 9. morality, benevolence, good citizenship and due reverence of Deity; though that system which is the most rational will no doubt produce the best effects in society, particularly where knowledge is elevated and duly estimated. But since a great portion of mankind take up their religious notions from accident or circumstance, it should not be forgotten that their modes of worship should, in some measure, be adapted to their capacities; and fortunate is the country in which the moral and other fundamental principles, are not eradicated by the fanatical freaks of those who take for granted what they do not examine, nor can comprehend.

10 Sunday: Morn cloudy - wind S.W.; last night a considerable shower attended with lightning & thunder; the day continued cloudy and rain in afternoon, with lightning and thunder frequent. wind at N.; then back to S.W.

Winds & showers. In the warm season sudden changes of winds to opposite points indicate showers; and clouds wafted from various directions to a central point, differently charged with electricity, must produce lightning & thunder; and if the rain be violent, it is generally attended with a descent of a portion of the upper air. Hence the change of temperature after a shower.

May 11. Monday. Morn fair, wind N. and brisk, and throughout the day the air cool and a fine equable.

Fruit trees — Apple trees in pretty full blossoms as well as plums & cherrys, but the fruit is often cut off by late frosts. Less attention is paid to the growth of apples than formerly and comparatively little cider is made, and to me it has become rare. Both apples and cider I think are essential to the health of families

Use of ... — when used in due quantity, and indeed the former can hardly be misused. The efforts against the use of ardent spirits, have been extended to cider, and even mild malt drinks, as I think, improperly. Stinted to water man

Ardent spirits — will require something more stimulating especially as he advances in age. The danger of using these stimulants is, from an excess while young, and here caution is necessary. The thirst for ardent spirits is strong in those who live on poor and scanty food, and hence we find it in the Indian, almost irresistable. Our Fathers made use of stimulants, yet were a more hardy race than ourselves; and were they less virtuous? Here is a doubt. They possessed more of the masculine virtues, and are ours, if more refined, more noble?

I would not lay a straw in the way of checking the use of ardent spirits, but when carried to excess, temperance will hardly bear that name

12 Tuesday. Fair morn, wind NW. day fair with scattering clouds, & cool air.

Shad, I am informed, were taken last on the Connecticut, between this town

 and Montague. The vast quantity
May 12. of these fish that formerly ascended
the river and its confluent streams
Shad fishing were really astonishing, and are now hard-
ly to be credited. The people of the neigh-
boring country flocked to the fishing places,
and some of the noted falls where
the scoops were successfully worked,
presented Encampments where mer-
chandise of all sorts were offered for
sale, and many people collected for
sport. This was the holyday season
and all were on the move. If have
No market on ever the fish furnished a large sup-
ply of food for the season, perhaps lessening the
dispense the quantity of food which would
otherwise been produced on the farms.
Nor were these fishing stations com-
mendable resorts for the young and
inexperienced, for there dissipation
stood almost without a check; but
such were the generally good habits
of the people that high crimes were
seldom committed. At that time, bow-
ie knives, lynch-laws, and striped pigs.
were unknown to the people.
Salmon During this fishing, Salmon of the first
quality were caught in considerable num-
bers, than which nature no where
furnished more delicious food from the
animal creation; but they have now
deserted the River. owing, it is supposed,
to the obstruction of their passage by dams,
though no complete dam is found within
100 miles of its mouth. Has instinct
or the reasoning power induced this de-
sertion? Ah!
"All nature is but art unknown to thee."
Man there must stop at facts with-
out scanning causes beyond his capacities.

May 13. **Wednesday** Morning fair, wind NW. — a fine fair day, wind veered to SW.

[ncing army] Report says hostilities have commenced between the Mexicans and Americans on the Rio Grande, near Matamoras, and that a detachment of about 60 men of our army had been cut off by the

[ostili-ties com-menced] Mexicans, who had passed the river to the left bank. Detachments of southern militia are said to be ordered to reinforce our army under Gen. Taylor; the Mexicans commanded by Gen. Arista. Now for a scrape! I am in want of good maps of the country, without which it will be difficult to trace the operations. Have we in Texas the requisite military magazines, forming a safe Base for an invasion of Mexico?

In the interior, or high land of Mexico, the air is said to be mild for its latitude, but in the eastern, and in Texas, hot & unhealthy. In a unacclimated campaign with Northern troops, I apprehend much loss will be sustained by sickness, from which the Mexicans will be exempt, from their acclimation. In a sickened army, the loss of lives is often greater than in battles; but this is a subject little thought of, until by sad experience it is felt; and more especially by raw troops not habituated to a camp life.

An attempt to prosecute the war, by detachments of militia, would be too childish even for President Polk's war-hawks, who by the by will keep at a respectful distance from the contested fields, leaving others to gather the laurels, while they lecture on republican liberty & the rights of man.

146 Thursday. Fair morn; wind

May } S.W. day fine with wind occasionally E.
14. }

Gen. Taylor's position — Accounts from New Orleans, of May 2d say Gen. Taylor is shut up in his fortified camp opposite to Matamoras, by a superior force of Mexicans, who have cut his line of operation, and reduced him to about 15 days provisions; a considerable force of militia, it is supposed, will be necessary to relieve him from his critical position. With a force nearly double of that of Gen. Taylor's Gen. Burgoyne, on the Hudson in 1777, was compelled to surrender his army to us. He had penetrated to ~~Saratoga~~ Stillwater on the river without a supply of provisions; and his line of operation with Lake Champlain, was ~~[illegible]~~ & his supplies cut off. Our commanders may at length learn that fighting is not the most difficult part of military operations. In his advance from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande, Gen. Taylor's force was inadequate to its object. Probably too much reliance was placed upon a supposed superiority of fighting troops — often a fatal supposition. The Mexicans under skillful officers & with experience, may become formidable troops. If we are determined to invade the populous part of the country, we must increase our army with regular forces, and carry on our operations systematically. The false notions we have imbibed from our militia system, must be given up before we become a military nation. Our farmers, mechanics & others, though they may be sharp shooters, are not soldiers — a truth known to all experienced officers.

May 15 Friday. Morn cloudy, wind S.W. 147
day mostly fair; but cloudy at sun set.

In the war which has now commenced with Mexico, the main object of our government will be to obtain the acquisition of that part of the country lying northward of the gulf of California and west of Texas; and as the population is sparse and a regular government hardly known among the inhabitants, a conquest may not be difficult. Having the example of Texas before them the people will pursue an easy course to annexation with us. But should Great Britain or France, or both united, be involved in the war, which is not the most improbable result, we might find ourselves in no enviable a position.

Suppose Mexico should cede to either of these nations her N.W. territory, would the democratic doctrine of Presidents Monroe and Polk be regarded? We think not. A fair, bona fide conveyance of a territory of one independent nation to another, is not thus to be defeated by a third which has no title. This new international law carried out, would be a just cause of war on the part of those who had obtained a title.

What will be the course of Mexico in her present position, is uncertain; but under the treatment she has received from the United States, will she not be more disposed to cede her N.W. territory to some foreign power, than to submit to a conquest by us? At any rate it is highly probable that Mexico has a plan

148 May 15.. If however we invade the old part of Mexico with a view to conquest, we may find it, at least, formidable in a war of defence. Six or seven millions of people are not to be prostrated at a puff, by a nation at our distance, "feeling power & forgetting right." Let it not be forgotten that in case of war, justice & honor are essential to success.

President's message Washington Monday last. The President sent to Congress a message, invoking them to Recognize a War, and to authorize him to call 50.000 volunteers into service for 12 months, for operations against Mexico: that is volunteer militia corps under officers of their own choosing.

Calling for volunteers What systematic, Regular officer will consent willingly to command them, who has any regard to his reputation? The writings of Washington will furnish an answer to the question.

Remarks A militia Army! What a solecism! If war is to be prosecuted, let soldiers be provided, and farmers &c. left to their proper employments at home.

Washington's opinion of soldiers "I solemnly declare I never was witness to a single instance, that can countenance an opinion of militia or raw troops being fit for the real business of fighting."
Circular of Washington to the Executives of the several States. Oct. 18. 1780.

In the progress of our revolutionary war, one of the greatest difficulties with which Gen. Washington had to contend was the false notion entertained of the fitness of militia for war. The inferiority

not only among the people, but
15 in Congress, and our cause was consequently on the verge of a failure. The wonderful discernment & perseverance of the Commander in Chief at length overcame the fatal error and our independence was established by the employment of regular, permanent troops.

At this time the old error seems to be gaining ground, which may be attributed to our 30 years of peace and the parade & foppery of our militia corps, which have eradicated all correct ideas of systematic war in the people at large, and introduced a sort of <u>Ball-Room tactics</u> performed to the tunes of brass-bands and the flutterings of ribbons, all as foreign to military discipline as the arts of the milliner's shop. And were it not for our little army of permanent troops, and the <u>West point academy</u>, all sound knowledge of the art of war would have become extinct by this time. Mr Polk and his Cabinet, possess no experimental knowledge of the art of war, and it would be ascribing to them extraordinary genius to suppose that even in <u>theory</u>, they had made progress without making the studies in some degree professional.

A war, however, may be attended with <u>one advantage</u>: it may teach us our weakness as a military nation and render us less boastful of our strength.

150 Saturday. Cloudy morn, wind S.W.
May 16 day continued cloudy & some rain fell

Remarks on the Mexican War

We are now at war with Mexico, a Republic claiming to be free like ourselves. The cause of the war is well known to us and the nations of Europe, as well as to all civilized countries of the world, and will be approved or condemned, as it shall appear to them in their judgment. If it shall appear ~~to th~~ unjust on our part, we shall be the real sufferers though we should conquer additional parts of the Mexican territory and annex them to our union; and it may be that our course towards that nation will excite the commiseration of other nations. The question is whether our government can make it clear that it has held a course towards Mexico, fair & honorable, and such as it would require from her in similar circumstances, or the golden rule to do as we would be done by. If we enter the contest without this priority in our course, we ought to be defeated in all our movements against her.

The annexation of Texas to our union is a novel case, and to say the least, presents doubts of its justice, and moreover is contrary to the former practices of nations. If similar instances can be adduced, no proof of right & justice is to be inferred from them but only the power of the strong over the weak. The present instance savors too much of ambition & loose regard of right on our part, and its morality is questionable

May. Sunday. Windy morn with [illegible]
17 SW wind. P.M. partially fair;
with air agreeable temperature.

To the enquiring mind nature now presents an inviting study, especially in the vegetable kingdom, and a writer of that character says: "The proper parent of all superstition and false religion is ignorance of nature and the true causes of events; and it is generally conceded that the study of natural philosophy is of the highest importance, both in a temporal and a spiritual sense. The untutored man will view the works of nature with delight & wonder but the man of science, who can investigate and explain the causes of things, will contemplate them with reverence, and discover proofs of a superior intelligence in all the operations of the universe".

One who thus expands his views cannot fail of laying a firm foundation of Natural religion; and since this emanates from the great Creator, it cannot be counter to religion revealed from the same source. Here then we have a standard by which we may judge of the genuineness of schemes claiming to be supernaturally revealed to man. And we may safely say that all the schemes that will not bear this test, are the works of erring men. The only question is whether we correctly understand the religion of nature, and here we may err; but the fundamental points are too [illegible] to be mistaken by sane minds.

152 The religious errors into which men so
May often run, arise generally from false
17. modes of education, want of examin-
ation, and taking up their religious
notions upon trust. But if it be
true that under these influences all
are not capable of discerning the
truth; yet it behooves the philoso-
pher to investigate unawed by au-
thority, and to give a rational ground
of his belief.

18. <u>Monday</u>. Morn fair with
broken clouds and S.W. wind.
P.M. a shower with some thunder.
What will be the bearing of the Mex-
The Mexican War ican war upon the Oregon dispute
with Great Britain? If our whole
army & 50,000 volunteers, with $10
millions are necessary in the out-set,
what will be the <u>calls</u> if the same
continues for several years?
We seem to think the conquest
of Mexico an easy undertaking: Per-
haps so! – but it may prove other-
wise; and should we place Great Bri-
tain at war with us at the same
time, we might find our hands full.
At least 100,000 men would be necessary
to protect our front & right and
left flanks, and troops very differ-
Its effects ent from volunteers – militia must be employ-
ed; and how long after the in-
juries of the war should be <u>felt</u>, would
our ballot-boxes remain unaffected,
Qy! but our <u>war hawks</u> seem not
to be aware of this effect on a <u>free</u>
people, who <u>have</u> all power in their
hands. Will they forget their former
commercial prosperity and feast on
the <u>bubble</u> called <u>patriotism</u>? If so, they
must be entirely changed from their
former habits & dispositions.

No! our young men who have heard this Jetters tell of war, may at first feel a thirst for its glories, but a few months service in the field will cool their zeal; and when once returned to their paternal homes be will contented to remain there. This is the effect of actual service on a great portion of militia volunteers.

Washington well understood this trait in the character of Citizen soldiers. In a letter written to Congress from Harlem Heights in 1776, he says. "When men are irritated and their passions inflamed, they fly hastily and cheerfully to arms; but after the first emotions are over, to expect among such people as compose the bulk of an army, that they are influenced by any other principles than those of interest, is to look for what never did and I fear never will happen". In the same letter the General pointed out the total inefficiency of militia for war, in terms that cannot fail to convince all who are acquainted with the first principles of military discipline. (See his official Letters published by Mr. Sparks)

Yet with little other force, our war Hawks would plunge us into a war with Great Britain! Consummate stupidity! With such men for our guides, who would not shudder for our liberty?

The zeal for a war with Great Britain will find a damper in this war with Mexico, and well will it be if the contest teaches us that justice & honor are essential to our welfare & standing among the nations of the world.

154
May
19 } Tuesday. Rain morn, wind SW. and day fair & air cool.

The papers now begin to teem with accounts of war & preparations against Mexico and one object of those of the democratic cast, is to present the conduct of the President and his cabinet as wise and able, with a view to render the war popular, and prevent alarm at the expense which must attend it. Every mean is used to place Mexico in the wrong. She has refused to receive our minister or treat with him; — She has sent troops to the Rio del Norte to watch the movements of our army, already advanced ~~many~~ many miles 100 miles into the territory she claims as her own; and she has crossed the river, advanced into our limits, attack our light parties and killed and captured our men on our own ground; and worse than all, has surrounded Gen. Taylor & cut off his supplies. Volunteer corps of militia, are now offering their services to the President; the land of Montezuma is to be invaded, the city of Mexico to be sacked and the whole country to be subjected to our republican humanity, and all this by a sort of acclamation.

This eruption of democratic lava will cease when the explosive force of the volcano is expended; and it may open a safety valve which shall prevent similar explosions.

The Volunteers will measure their ditto once as they advance, eagerly count the tedious days of their enlistment, "and home, sweet home" will be remembered.

May Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott, it
19: is stated, has been ordered to take
the command of the army assembling
in Texas. He is about 60 years of age
and is supposed to be qualified for
a commander; but we believe will
not be happy gratified at the vexatious charge
of a militia army, wholly unpre-
pared for systematic operations, &
implicit obedience of orders. Among
his volunteers he will probably find
knowing soldiers who will demand
the reasons and motives of his move
ments. Among the New Orleans vol
unteers, it is stated, are 50 Printers
who have turned out full of patriot
ism. How long will these young
gentlemen submit to the pay and
employments of the soldier? We think
the General would rather see them at
their types than in his ranks. These
patriotic soldiers will hardly vol-
unteer their services in a second cam
paign; for their taste for field tac
tics will be satiated, and they
will hardly aspire to la Grande
Stratégie.

20 Wednesday. Morn fair, wind
SW. air cold; day alternately fair
& cloudy & wind sometimes W.
In the Boston Post of the 16th instant,
we find a full list of the officers of Gen. Taylor's army
taken from a New Orleans paper.
The impropriety of publishing such a
list at this time, will at once be obvi
ous to all acquainted with the ...

 importance of secrecy to an army when in times of operation.

May 20 — If gratifying to the curiosity of the officers, it would no less so, to Gen. Arista, the Mexican commander, when the list should come to his hands. Will the Volunteer printers, from New-Orleans, learn something in relation to secrecy in Camps, and communicate it to their brethren at home? In critical cases, in the vicinity of an enemy, sometimes all communications from the camp are prohibited excepting those made by the Commander in Chief. By Lord Wellington

Secrecy in an army, was considered so important, that even his staff were always ignorant of his intentions, and he once humorously said, "If I thought the hair of my head knew my plans, I would wear a wig".

So important is secrecy in military operations, that the officers of well regulated troops imbibe it, and in their social intercourse few, or no remarks are made upon their commanders or their plans & movements, and a taciturnity is preserved, which the militia man construes into a lack of sociability: but a contrary practice is the source of bickerings, ill nature and ~~fatal~~ results fatal to order & discipline.

21. Thursday, Mor. fair, wind N. and cool air: day fair

We have seen very ~~unauth~~ theatrical accounts in ~~the~~ Hartford and other, of a Battle between our army and the Mexicans, on the Rio Grand; but I wait for more authentic accounts, tho' I [illegible] these. The

Margin notes: Secrecy in War — Lord Wellington — Regular offi cers — Vague accounts

May The substance of the account is;
21. that Gen. Taylor on the night of the 3d of May leaving 7 or 800 men at his fortified camp proceeded to Point Isabella to open his communication, and that on the morning of the fourth, the Mexicans attacked the works, 2 were repulsed with the loss of 700 men, and only one on the American side; and that Matamoros was burnt by the fire of the American artillery. The details are entirely destitute of military precision. The Mexicans are stated at 10, or more, thousands 2 certainty re-informing all is vague. Gen Taylor is supposed to have been attacked on his return to camp, on the 6th. and may have been defeated.
Where are the Texan militia — the volunteers? But the New Orleans Printers are on the march,
"Equipped alike for feast or fray,
"With warlike sword and singsong lay.";
22 Friday. Fair morn, wind N E; day fair. P.M. wind SW.
We are looking eagerly for the mail in hopes to obtain details of the military operations on the boundary of Texas & Mexico, where Brethren of the republican family are endeavoring to do each other ~~the~~ the most harm, a condition in which civilized nations ought not to be forced.
Wrong has been committed by one of the contending nations; and on which does it rest? A calm examination of the history of the annexation of Texas to us, will ~~show~~.

1858 May 22 — place the question in no favor-
able light on the part of our Gov-
ernment. The secession of Texas from
Mexico gave no right to us to re-
ceive them into our Union without
the consent of Mexico. To say that
because Mexico had not been able
to put down the insurrection (for
so it was in fact) Texas had become
a legal independent nation, would be a posi-
tion obviously absurd.

(Our claim to Texas)

Suppose Louisiana, or any other
portion of our territory, had with-
drawn from our Union, and ~~had~~
voluntarily consented to become a
part of Mexico, and ~~been~~ received by
her as part of her territory, would
this have been a dissolution of our
right to the seceding state? And sup-
pose we had not been able to
coerce her, or had preferred a dif-
ferent course to effect that object,
would this have altered the right
of the case? Clearly not.

(Unjust)

If this mode of annexation be
adopted as a ~~current~~ national Law of Nations
they may bid farewell to all perma-
nent boundaries of territories, laws
and rights of property.

23. Saturday Morn fair, but soon cloudy
with S.W. wind; day cloudy with
some rain and fog dense on the
mountains —

A scribbler in a democratic paper
of Boston proposes a Mass meeting
at Faneuil Hall to rouse the Spirit of
'76 & ~~raise~~ engage a regiment of volunteers
for the Mexican war. He seems to
think a campaign six or seven hun-
dred miles South of New Orleans, would
be a pleasant excursion, and that the [illegible]
[illegible] of Boston ought not [illegible]

(Not in the Spirit)

May 23 of the pleasure & honor of it 159
this volunteer service which is
to extend our boundary and in
force emancipated liberty & laws, on
a neighboring people who choose to
govern themselves by systems and
laws of their own.

In remarking upon our militia
system I have said that no civilized
people in the world, are more pro
foundly ignorant of war & its oper
ations, than a portion of the people
of the United States. This is attributa
ble to the show and foppery of our
militia corps on their training days in
presence of the staring multitude who
suppose these war exhibitions; and
the soldiers (so called) finding the sport
very pleasant, imbibe what they call
a war spirit. Hence a trip to Mexico
is considered as a protracted scene of
diversion, which they are desirous
of embracing. One month's field ser
vice will effectually cure the staring, and
to retain them in the service would
require a force of disciplined troops, dou
ble their numbers. If among our back
woodsmen we found those who are
better fitted to endure the fatigues of the
camp, they are in fact little better for
protracted service; and in point of
subordination & obedience to orders, equally
unfit for soldiers. The latter, however
it must be confessed, are the best mi
litia; but no officer who regards his
reputation would wish for a command
in either.

24 Sunday. Cloudy morn; wind N. Bell.
Broken clouds, & partially fair.
... found ... arrived last night & gave me a call ... him I find ...

140 ~~commanded~~ my confidence, as ^[& esteem] I
May esteem he does that of all who
24. have ~~acquainted~~ ^[intercourse] with him.
Mr. S. B. Powers [?] } During an acquaintance of several years I have found in him all those amiable qualities which ^[render] intercourse clear; and were all mankind possessed of his virtues and intelligence nothing would occur to interrupt the harmony of society.
More men of similar characters are wanted in our country. Long may he live to soften the ferocity of those who lack his exemplary qualities. He now has the charge of a flourishing academy at Ithaca in this State.
25. Monday. Cloudy morn. wind N. and the day generally cloudy, and wind P.M. S.W. warm.
Congress act } By the recent act of Congress Presi~~dent~~ ^[dent] Polk is authorized to ~~raise~~ accept of 50.000 volunteers, in addition to our standing troops of about 8000, and is intrusted with the strings of the public purse to the amount of 10 millions of Dollars, to prosecute the war against our sister republic, Mexico. This is no small power to intrust to one, scarcely known to the people until a short time prior to his election to the Presidency.
Mr. Polk } In the selection of Mr Polk to his office I have not supposed ^[he] possessed any remarkable qualifications for the position, but that the democratic leaders knew him to be a zealous member of their party, and would be ~~then~~ subservient to their plans & schemes; and it must be confessed ~~that~~ he has thus far given no cause for doubting the sincerity of what they call his pledged course. The annexation of

Texas was a matter of course; 167
25 but whether they anticipated a war with Mexico is doubtful. Relying on her supposed weakness and our boasted superiority of military prowess, they believed she would submit to their encroachments, and be thankful if allowed to remain an independent nation, within such limits as our government should prescribe. But should Mexico resist our strides, a Cortes was to plant our standard over the bones of Montezuma, which was considered no difficult task.

But this was not the great object in the election of Mr Polk: a war with Great Britain was the grand scheme, in which her Provinces in N. America were to be annexed to our Union, and our democratic principles, elsewhere [illegible] ours, at least all parts of North America.

This plan is no doubt well understood in Great Britain, and probably in France, and whether they will remain indifferent to our conquest of Mexico, time will determine.

The war on our part is democratic; the Volunteers will consist of that description of our people, and though not the troops to be relied on in systematic operations, they may during the first ebullitions, inflict much misery on the Mexicans; and at least their northwestern territory may be wrested from them, and annexed to our Union under our national law, [illegible] de Texas.

But with the power now granted to Mr Polk, are our own liberties secure? Suppose he should pursue ambition and

162 and be forced to partake of a Nation
May of the Spirit of the same reform
25 Bonaparte, would our ~~own~~ liberties be
secure? With the powers reserved
our } by our State Governments, I have sup
glory } posed that ~~our liberties~~ they were not in danger ~~safe~~
in } from encroachment of the Federal
Government, ~~and~~ nor ~~would~~ any thing would there
be if the people could be kept awake
to their true interests: but in our
present condition the powers of the
States are neutralized by political di
visions, and in time of war when
the President is intrusted with
In time } the military force and the purse
of war } strings of the Treasury, the rights
of the States may be forgotten and
an ambitious leader find no
great obstruction in fixing himself
in a permanent position, guarded
by his _favorite volunteers_.
There is however one security ~~against~~ against
the usurpations of such power. When
~~the~~ the people _feel_ the deprivations
and distresses of war, they will
rouse, and have recourse to the
ballot boxes, if not too late, which
may be the case.
That Mr. Polk is the man for
such a course, is doubtful; but if
not, others are not wanting. ~~it~~
When a majority of the people
of a country become politically cor
rupt, and are ready to follow
the dictates of unprincipled leaders,
their liberties cannot long remain.
~~[illegible]~~ The present condition
of our country demands the watch
ful care of its wisest patriots—,
but will they be regarded while the [illegible] ma
[illegible] No mediation will be treasonable.

…ay and prudence cowardice. And (125)
25! Wo to the General who commands
the first volunteer army! If beaten
in battle no matter under what cir-
cumstances, he will be charged with
treachery and may loose his head;
and if cautious in his movements
he will be deemed a poltroon, and
be removed from command for a des-
perado who dashes forward with-
out regard to circumstances. Such was
the fate of several French commanders
under the Directory, in the first part
of their revolution.

Of the state of discipline in the
Mexican army, we are not in-
formed; but if the General officers
are informed and acquainted
with systematic operations they
may present formidable obsta-
cles to the advance of our in-
disciplined volunteers. Eight mil-
lions of people on their own soil,
if determined on resistance, are
not to be conquered. By adapt-
ing a defensive system, avoiding
general battles, holding fortified passes and mountains, and
acting on the flanks and rear
of the invading forces, might present
something very [illegible] to our dandy volunteers they [illegible] so
unlike the farce while dancing their
evolutions to bands of music
on their smooth pavilions at
home; and possibly the entire
[illegible] more than [illegible]
tragedy!

At the commencement of our revo-
lution our population was about
[illegible], yet we brought into
[illegible] [illegible] exhausted by the

164 the disciplined troops of Great Bri-
tain; and which at length,
25 by discipline under the cautious
Washington, was enabled to con-
tend with them in the open
field; and the capture of Burgoyne
demonstrated that a people of
an extended country are not to be
conquered by a blow.
The war with Mexico, may convince
her people to their... whose pre-
may find cause to regret.
At any rate, we may learn that a
war unjustly waged is not to be sus-
tained, at this stage of the world,
without the loss of national character.
26. Tuesday. Morn fair, wind NW.
and fair day. P.M. wind SW.
Air pleasantly warm.
A handbill, I am informed, is
in circulation, announcing a battle
between our forces & the Mexicans
in which the latter were beaten
with severe loss. It was my in-
tention to give ~~in~~ my diary,
details of the movements and
operations of the armies; but I
find them so loosely & even con-
tradictory stated that nothing like
accuracy can be obtained. The gene-
rals they are filled with puff
and dash of ~~...~~ wild men, that
little dependence can be placed
upon them. Cool detail is ill
suited to the times. ~~We~~ we are flying
on rail road speed, ~~at the rate of~~
30 to 40 miles per hour — go a head
is the cry — dash on ~~...~~
to the Mexican Capitol, and teach
the wretched people the blessings of

June } nor their Bunker hill spirit
25. } quashed, without a trial of their hero-
ism of nature, in a war of conquest
on the plains of Mexico.

The confidence reposed in an army of
volunteer corps is wholly misplaced, and
arises from ignorance of war as an art
and science that requires ~~[illegible]~~ experi-
ence in the tented field prior to the ser-
vice. [infant or grown?] If bravery alone were sufficient,
it would be otherwise; for militia men
possess as much of that quality, naturally, as
regular troops, and are as capable of
individual display as those troops; but unlike reg-
ulars, they know not how to act in large
bodies, under regulated obedience and unite
effort; and being unacquainted with camp
duties, they know not how to take care
of themselves, ~~[illegible]~~ may soon become sickly
and disorderly. In a word, the strength of an army
composed of militia is inversely proportion-
ed to its number, excepting when acting in
the woods in small parties, or posted in
fortified works, where it is less dangerous
to stimu them to run.

26 Friday. Fair morn, wind N: but the
Day generally cloudy, with some rain;
air still cool.

From the latest accounts from our army
on the Rio Grande, it appears that the troops
are becoming sickly, especially the volunteer
corps. This was anticipated, and it would
not be extraordinary if Gen. Taylor should
be compelled to suspend any important op-
erations until September or October. As the

2nd June 26. In the mean time the discipline of the camp, and the malaria of the country, will cool the ardour of the volunteers for the service, and home have more charms than a march to the City of Mexico.

[Margin: Recruiting officers from the Army]

Recruiting officers are sent from the Army to various parts of the United States to enlist men to fill up the regular Regiments to the new establishment. Will our young democrats improve this opportunity to show their zeal in the cause? No! they will prefer ~~the~~ to serve in volunteer corps, in which their officers will be more under their control, and the discipline less rigid. In our war of the revolution I well recollect the aversion of the militia men to enlisting under the Continental officers, who were thought to be too rigid in their discipline; and under this impression it was almost impossible to obtain recruits to fill up the regiments in service. To obviate this difficulty the citizens were formed into military classes, whose duty was to engage one or more men, according to the number of recruits required from the towns; and large bounties were sometimes paid to those who consented to become soldiers, whether of the class or engaged from a distance.

[Margin: old mode of recruiting]

At the present time, the democratic spirit pervading all classes, and the wages of labor in Army much higher than those of the soldier

June 24 } the same difficulty might occur, in a severe war; in which case a scheme similar to the French conscription in their late revolution, probably would be adopted, a resort, however, which ought never to be chosen but in a war of defence. The attempt to carry on a war against a powerful force of disciplined troops, by volunteer corps who elect their officers, is too preposterous to be entertained for a moment, by men of sound sense and judgment.

French conscription

27 Saturday. Morn cloudy, wind N.E. and cooler; the day generally fair. P.M. wind S.W.

A letter from Fort Polk (Point Isabel) June 7 – 1846 says: "troops are arriving there daily; the men at the Point are much debilitated by a severe flux, so as to render them almost totally unfit for service, and few will be able to march from there to Barita. They need better water, a change of food, & more exercise. Gen. Taylor will not move into the interior until he has collected more stores and established depots along the routes of march – to do which in the liveried and proper transactions of business here, will require weeks if not months."

Letter from Fort Polk

Sick troops

This must be encouraging to our volunteers, so eagerly panting for military glory.

Report says, 500 Mexican Rancheros had passed Rio Grande, ~~[illegible]~~ & were ranging the Country — (Improbable!) East of Fort Brown.

June 28. *Sunday.* Morn cloudy, - wind SW; Sun out at noon, but most of the day cloudy and cool air. Since the Sun arrived at its greatest declination the weather has been cool, - a condition not readily explained upon the supposition that the sun *alone* is the cause of the temperature in our Latitude.

Weather.

29 *Monday.* Morn cloudy, wind W., and the air rather warmer; the day fair throughout.

General Taylor's position. Placed as he is at the head of an undisciplined army of volunteers on the Rio Grande, at this season of the year, I can conceive of nothing more trying to the patience of a commander. A great portion of his men will *probably* be prostrated with sickness, and another portion wearied and disgusted with the service, will be sighing for their homes, engendering spirits of discontent, confusion & want, will pervade his camp; and even his small regular force may not be exempt from the evil examples.

Gen. Taylor's position.

Congress men. The false notions entertained by many at this time, surprises me, - some of our members of Congress partake of the grossest notions. Recently, I have noticed the absurd proposition broached, that the ~~troops~~ soldiers should *elect* their General officers. What stupidity! Such men are about as fit for members of Congress, *at this time*, as a raw seaman is to navigate a ship on the wide ocean. Gen. Taylor will find cause to regret the want of discernment in those who would conduct his operations.

June 30 Tuesday. Fair morn, wind S.W.; the day fair and warm

Haying — Our farmers are now employed in haying; the crop middling: the cloudy weather for some days past retarded the process.

Rail road — The Rail road so injudiciously located over hills and deep ravines is making slow progress; but time and labor is required to complete it. The bridge at Cheapside will be expensive, and of a frightful height when completed. The Rail road down Millers river to Grouts and thence to Northfield & Brattleboro' is laid in reserve and it is doubtful whether it will be called into action. Rail roads have become numerous on paper, but a few only will be found on the surface of the ground. The truth is, they are too expensive for the people in the interior of the country; and they are not wanted, excepting on the routes of great trading places. Let us then grade our roads as far as is within our power, and if made hard and smooth, they will answer our reasonable wants.

July 1 Wednesday. Cloudy morn gentle rain, and wind N. W. the day cloudy with occasional rain

This and the two following months will be a severe trial to the raw troops of Gen. Taylor's army on the frontiers of Mexico, and a large portion of them may be swept off by fatal sickness, common to hot climates. This seems not one to have entered the minds of our volunteers, even those from the northern states

218 New troops are very liable to sickness in
July mild climates; but in those that are
1. hot death often makes horrid strides, more fa-
Sum[mer] tal than battles. An invasion of South
campaign Mexico at this season, would be the
in hot most imprudent movement that could be
climate devised; and in short, next to insanity.
Our various expeditions into the NW point
by raw troops be attended with much loss
fatality. With the aid of malaria the Mex-
icans may yet make a formidable defence
and thousands of our young men may
Mex[ican] overspread the ground with their bones.
[illegible] Were the war strictly defensive and unavoid-
[illegible] able, and our country in danger, all these
distresses must be borne with as much
patience as the lot of humanity will permit
But in the present war, does the necessity
clearly appear? The history of the the
annexation of Texas to our union shows
Is it at first, that our course is doubtful in point
just of justice. At any rate the annexation was
not necessary for the welfare and happiness
of the United States. The war then cannot
be considered truly defensive, and in this
light, I believe, it is viewed by the nations
of Europe. Be it then our endeavor to re-
store confidence, by a return to national
justice.

2. Thursday. Moon partially fair, with NW
winds. The day among the burning fire
fine for haymaking; though the atmos-
phere was sometimes hazy & wind variable

July 2. When the volunteers of New Orleans first turned out for the service in Mexico, we were told that 50 young gentlemen of the type offered their patriotic services. We then doubted whether these warm friends of liberty were to wield the rifle and brave the hardships of the tented field under a burning sun; and we now learn that Gen. Taylor finds other employments for them. A printing press is established at Matamoros from which a paper is to issue in English and Spanish, to circulate among the benighted inhabitants of the country, on and near the Rio Grande, to share the blessings of democratic liberty. The scheme is to get up another Texas section, to be annexed to our union, under our new international law; and thus, by this scheme, Mexico is to be sliced off, at least as far south as the latitude of the mouth of the Rio Grande. The remainder of Mexico may perhaps be allowed to continue a government, provided it remains obediently tributary to us. Our volunteer printers are admirably adapted to this service, which requires no rifle shooting, nor bayonet charges on Mexican batteries; and no doubt Gen. Taylor will be willing to dispense with their other services.

3 Friday. Fair morn, wind N. the day fair but hazy. P.M. wind SW.

The papers state that on the 22d of June a snow squall happened for some minutes at the City of N York, and that on the 23d the snow whitened the ground on the Alleganies, to the N.W. of the borough of Huntingdon. At Deerfield the weather, at the same time, was cold enough for a [illegible]

220. Is it a fact that our Summer season
July is becoming colder than formerly? The change
3. in the frequency, aspect and violence of our
thunder showers, indicate this opinion.
young men, I find, have no adequate con-
ception of an old thunder storm: and they
hardly credit my accounts of them.

Old In an old poetical composition, by Roger
poem Wolcott of Connecticut, printed at New-London
des 1725, I find the following description of one
storms of those storms, which I quote verbatim.

"So have I sometimes in the summer seen,
"The sun ascending over the skie serene,
"Nor wind nor Cloud in all the Hemisphere,
"All things in such a perfect Calmness were.
"At length a little Cloud doth up arise,
Descrip "To which the nitrous sulphury Vapour flys.
tion "Soon a dark mantle over Heaven spread,
of an "With which the Lamp of day was darkened.
old "And now the Clouds in tempest loud contend,
Poet "And rain and dreadful Lightning downward send.
"With such loud and mighty Thunder brake
"As made Earth tremble & the mountains smoke
"And the convulsive world seem drawing on,
"Apace to his own Dissolution.
"The awfulness of which amazing sight,
"Greatly did Earths Inhabitants affright."

In this description much of reality is pre-
served; particularly the serene sky, the first appearance
of the cloud, the dark mantle, the tempest, and
the mighty thunder which made earth trem-
ble and mountains smoke. The thunder was often
like the incessant discharge of heavy artillery; and the

July rain fell in such quantity as to flood an stut
3. disruption and destroy the roads, bridges &c.—
compared with which the showers, of late years,
are but gentle waterings, and moderate gales.
This alteration of the showers is owing proba-
bly to the clearing and cultivation of the Country
by which evaporation is effected as well
as atmospheric electricity. May not the
multiplicity of railroads, in some measure,
effect the equilibrium of that pervading ele-
ment? I think it possible. If at any time
a concentration of this fluid, should happen
at one extremity of such an iron strapped way,
would it not instantly be conveyed to the
other? In case of a continued circuit, this must be
the operation, as is evident from the electro magnetic
telegraph. Our knowledge of the laws of nature
is ~~[illegible]~~ limited to narrow bounds, but
an extensive field for discovery ~~is before~~
~~us~~ in natural philosophy is before us,
but in examining this field let us bear in
mind, that the powers of man are too
limited to explain all the arcana of nature
and that many will elude our most dil-
igent researches—

4 Saturday Morn. fair, wind N. afternoon
some clouds, and wind SW. air moderate.
Anniversary of our Independence. The day
is celebrated in various parts of the coun-
try by assemblages of people, processions, ora-
tions, firing of cannon &c. How far the cele-
bration promotes national liberty is rather doubt-
ful; in general it is for party purposes than
for the general good, and we seem to have lost in a
degree the pure sentiment of our political fathers

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July 4. The members of Amherst College, [inst.] held a celebration on a Peak of Holyoke mountain, called Hilliard's Knob, one of the primitive stations in Mr Borden's Geodesic Survey of our State. The view is said to be more extensive than that at the peak at Holyoke. The Knob is on the south line of Amherst, and the Students of the College have recently constructed a road to it up the north slope of the mountain. Holyoke is a remarkable Dyke of Greenstone, or Basalt, supposed, by Geologists, to have up-heaved by central fire.

On Mount Holyoke.

Indian names wanted. Desirous of changing the name of Hilliard's Knob Mr William Hawley, one of the members of Amherst College, wrote to me for some appropriate Indian name for the Knob; but none any within my knowledge, I suggested several English names for consideration (see my answer to his letter) and proposed the naming of all the prominent peaks of the mountain. In some parts of this mountain is seen a curious columnar structure which strikes the observer with astonishment. On the formation of these columns see Bakewell's Geology, Chap. 6. page 124. See also Hitchcock's Report of the Geology of Massachusetts.

Note. The Center of the Hilliard station is marked by a copper bolt inserted into a cylindrical hole drilled in the rock, having a cross upon the top; the height above Sea level 1119,74 feet: Lat.= 42-18-20,38 Long. 72-30-59,83 as inserted in Mr Borden's tables

(Amherst College Lat. 42.22.15,61 Long. 72.31.28,49

The whole of the primitive stations, I believe were marked by copper bolts.

July Sunday. Cloudy morn — rained Show; 223
5 the day pretty fair, showery & warm with some thunder.

Until this time the summer heat has not been oppressive to me; but often rather uncomfortably cool; it now begins its usual debilitating effect, and we seek out the fanning breeze under the cool shade and wonder how it is possible the people of tropical regions can exist, and thank our stars that our dwelling is cast in more favorable places. But our infatuated volunteers to the Rio Grande and Mexico! What can have induced them to offer their services in that fatal climate where malaria is rife, and unrelenting yellow fever prostrates the most athletic. Is it for the defence of our rights and liberties? Singular indeed if an invasion of a weak neighboring nation were ~~to be~~ designed for this purpose. In the course of this and the two following months the heedless young men now so eager for the service, may learn that they are not soldiers, and that home is their place of enjoyment. But alas! poor fellows, they may too late learn wisdom.

That heedless young men, charmed ~~in~~ ~~[illegible]~~ with the show and foppery of militia parades, should enroll themselves for service under officers their own choice, is not a strange [illegible];

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July 5. but that men of more advanced age whose judgment is in some measure matured, and who have looked at the history of campaigns in hot climates should volunteer their services, especially when the justice of the cause, to say the least, is doubtful, is an anomaly to be explained only by supposing them totally ignorant of war and its destructive effects.

6. Monday. Morn fair, wind SW; day fair & hot.

Designs of the Adm. The designs of the present admin are evidently becoming developed. viz: the conquest of, at least, North California and annexing it to the United States, and whether the other part of Mexico will be permitted to remain a separate nation is to be seen. By settling the dispute with Great Britain on the 49th degree of latitude, Mr Polk has endangered his popularity with his western friends; but he seems to be determined to retain his situation by the appointments of military officers from that region, to the exclusion of the northern & southern States. Well! this procedure fits well to the new sort of [illegible] which defies experience & theory, or any rules hitherto supposed necessary for commanders.

7. Tuesday. Morn fair and NW wind, and the day continued the same, with a refreshing breeze.

8. Wednesday. Fair morn wind SW. and day fair and hot.

Accounts from Matamoras say "Several deaths from [illegible] debility have occurred among the

July 8 volunteers; one was of Dr Norris, a gentleman who formerly edited the Woodville Republican. The volunteers are much dissatisfied; they want something to do. The most perfect apathy prevails among them

Volunteer prospects now, and every day the inroads of discontent are more apparent. The Sun is usually warm, and from 10 to 4 o'clock it is so intense that, but for the prairie breeze it would be impossible to stir about. Our tents are generally made of common Lowell cotton and afford little protection either from rain or sun. All such things combined with no occupation for the mind leaves nothing for excitement; and all that can be said is that we are here."

This is but the beginning of volunteer restlessness & sickness, and a few Months,

Remarks under the hot sun, will cure them of their zeal for propagating democratic liberty, and Gen. Taylor will soon find them as unfit for service as did Gen. Washington in our revolutionary war. Pitiful is the condition of the General placed at their head. Yet these are the troops that democracy supposes are to march rapidly on the City of Mexico and dictate terms in the "halls of Montezuma". What profound ignorance of military operations!

The war with Mexico may, it is hoped, end before Harst-election, but probably it may continue a sufficient time to cure our inconsiderate young men of the volunteering mania; and I will venture the assertion that they will not be disposed to make a

Mat

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July 8 Matamoras is laid down on a late Map of Texas, by A. Mitchell, at about 25.30 of Latitude, therefore the suns Zen. Dist. at its greatest declination is only 2.03 (south) Sun to appear so nearly vertical it would be next to a miracle if undisciplined and unseasoned troops from the northern or middle states were to escape fatal sickness, at this season. And what is more horrible than a sickly camp under a burning sun. Our regular troops habituated to a camp life will probably be less afflicted but even they will feel the effects of the climate. These considerations seem to have escaped our war hawks who are bawling [shouting] at home under their comfortable shades, and stimulating our young men to turn out and show their patriotism in the glorious cause of their country, the conquest of Mexico!

Gen. Taylor's Camp

9 Thursday: Fair morning, wind W. Sky hazy through the day.

The force now on the lower Rio Grande under Gen. Taylor, is estimated at from 9 to 10 thousand, but composed principally of undisciplined volunteers, and not exceeding 2000 Soldiers, fit for action. Added to the daily operation of the camp throughout the country: By this time it is probable confusion begins to appear in its military aspects, and if the regular forces are able to preserve order, they will perform a difficult service. When these wild volunteers left their homes for a frolick, they supposed that at this time they would be dancing onwards to the City of Mexico, and they did not have a thought of delay for the establishment of a magazine ... other stores. These if wanted

Our force on the Rio Grande

Probable state of

July 9 came to flow in like the manna of the Israelites in the wilderness. A General may direct their route up the river, but he must obtain their permission for this diversion from the original destination, and be very cautious of directing movements without consulting them.

Nor must the General be secret in his plan of operation; for this would be anti-republican. In one of Gen. Harrison's campaigns on the Miami, in the war of 1812, the volunteers from Ohio, disapproving of his management, held a camp meeting, and passed some resolves against him, and sent them to a printing press for publication. One complaint was, that the General was too secret in his plans. In the first campaign of the same war, under General Hull, the volunteers from the same state, on their march to Detroit, mutinied in the camp at Urbana, and refused to march until forced by the regular troops; once the same volunteers rode the officer of one of their companies on a rail.

Instances of this kind are not rare among militia volunteers, nor is it uncommon for them to indelibly [illegible] of the commander who enforces the necessary camp discipline and economy. Their whims are often of the most singular character. When Gen. St Clair was compelled to evacuate Ticonderoga in the campaign of 1777, in the revolutionary war, the story was propagated and believed that he sold the post to Gen. Burgoyne, and received the pay for his perfidy in silver bullets shot into his camp. What man who holds his reputation dear will consent to be placed at the head of militia volunteers?

July 9 } Friday Fair morn & wind SW. and
10 } day fair. 2 hot.

Mount Holyoke celebration

The celebration of the 4th of July was held at Hilliards Knob on Mount Holyoke as proposed (page 222) and the name of the Knob changed to Norwottuck, by the Senior Class of Amherst College, which is supposed to be the Indian name of Hadley. Of this, I think there is some doubt; but if an old name is desirable this may answer the wishes. I had suggested to them several modern names among which was that of Borden's Peak, in commemoration of Simeon Borden, the conductor of the Geodetic survey of our State; the science, skill and perseverance he evinced in the operation eminently entitled him to commemoration in these times. The work was more exact than any mathematician's contrivance, for no one could have been found among us who could have performed the task with equal accuracy.

The Peak is said to be about 100 feet higher than Holyoke. For think that so well known its geographical position &c. See page 222.

Mr Borden's survey

[illegible] Much has been said of the accuracy of the great trigonometrical survey of England, by Gen. Roy, Col. Mudge & others; but on a careful examination of Mr Borden's survey of Massachusetts it appears that the latter is not less accurate than the former, and in some particulars is more so, particularly in the admeasurement of the base line which must be considered an improvement of Roy's & Mudge's method. The measuring rods were metallic on the compensating principle, constructed by Mr Borden, and approached as near perfection as human effort is capable of. The angles also, being read off by Borden's repeating method are not less entitled to confidence.

July 10 In concluding surveys of this kind
it is supposed important to measure a
base of verification, as a test of the work;
...cem but this was omitted by Mr. Borden
...ayers he formed other proofs of at[?] correct-
of. ness of his calculated lines were verified
by the United States Coast survey. The
line six or seven miles long between Prospect
hill, in Taunton, and Rocker[?] Hill in Ports-
mouth, Rhode Island, one of the most dist-
ant lines from the measured base, differed
but 0,22 of a foot, as determined by the
two surveys respectively. A surprising coin-
cidence, & entitled to something more than chance.
In short the whole process was a most
nice piece of work, of which none but
the mathematician, versed in spheri-
cal Geometry, can form an adequate
conception. Of course the extent of
Mr Borden's services will never be duly
estimated by the people at large; and
and while I award my admiration
of his ingenious operations, I feel that
I should be wanting in due praise, were
I to omit the name of his accomplished as-
sistant, Charles O. Boutelle, now employed
on the coast survey of the United States,
who handles, or I may say plays with,
intricate geodetic problems, with a sort
of intuitive facility rarely exceeded.
With Mr Bordens other assistants I am un-
acquainted, but am informed they were
respectable. The aid afforded by the astro-
nomical observations of R. T. Paine was im-
portant, as they verified the operations
of Mr Borden; and in general a close co-
incidence was found in the two processes.
The Map, which has been projected from the survey
is [?] honorable to the State.

1850 July 11 Saturday: Morning fair & very hot, — wind SW.

Thermometer yesterday, I am informed, was 97 at the highest; and high temperature extended through the succeeding night. The air, much oppressed.

Intense heat — While such intensity of heat prevails, I shudder for the fate of our heedless volunteers on the Rio Grande. With what impatience they now begin to count the tedious days of their enlistment, and look towards home! Poor fellows! little did they conceive of spending life under a burning sun; and have [struck out] [illegible] harangues, to which they [struck out] eagerly listened, from Demagogues, who urged them to this sickly field, to chastise the Mexicans for their opposition to our encroachments upon their rights! All this they may now consider to be nought, and they will see at the delusion which has misled them from their friends & homes, to seek the bubble of military glory, which was to found in a pleasant frolick in Mexico. — Probable state of volunteers

President Polk may soon learn that his 50.000 volunteers are but farmers and mechanics, whose proper employments are at home; and that soldiers are not made without systematic discipline & subordination. Retained in the field, under high spirited officers who have been appointed for the occasion, an army of militia volunteers is a force in which no systematic officer would consent to play. If the men in [the] contemplate the ranks of the regular troops be filled up, and others recruited by enlistment sufficient for service during the war. But the President knows that the election of officers by the men, will become — Lesson for Polk

[illegible]

July 11. Late in the afternoon we had a small shower with some thunder, [illegible] the day hot throughout.

12 Sunday. Fair morn, wind S.W.; sky became covered before noon, and some rain fell attended with light thunder. This general spread of the clouds in our showers, keeps up an equilibrium of electricity; and of course there is little flashing of lightning from cloud to cloud, as when in insulated masses; at the same time, there may be a difference between the electricity of the clouds and earth, and strokes of lightning may occur between them, either in ascent or descent, according to the positive or negative state of the clouds.

P.M. weather hot, sun shining, scattering clouds, and a fanning breeze N.W.; at this time precious time [illegible] to a Bath of a proper temperature! But the people here have few or no conveniences for this high enjoyment and healthy practice.

13 Monday. Luminous dawn, S.W., but [illegible] to a fair day; heat less intense than yesterday.

Since the battles of the 8th & 9th of May and crossing of the Rio Grande, our army has made but little progress. Gen. Taylor finds it important to establish magazines and posts on the River, previous to our advance into the enemies territory; and after the blustery

282 and pinnacle of his volunteers, it is prob-
July able he finds a want of soldiers in his
13 army. To suppose him willing to advance
with his volunteers alone would be to try his
skill and judgment as a commander.
The sending out of recruiting officers to fill
up his regular regiments, evinces that he
is sensible of the inefficiency of volunteers in
conveying an campaign. He may
perhaps [illegible] the [illegible] to
to divert their attention from their homes
and to make them submissive to camp
duty, which is impossible in a camp
of repose, where the chief duty would
devolve on the army physicians. Gen.
Taylor, it is believed, will have little
inclination to try their powers in battle
with a formidable force, should one
be opposed to him. He may however be
driven to this, from want of other troops,
but his confidence of success must rest on
his regulars, instead of wild enthusiasm of volunteers, which
often misgives under favorable circum-
stances, and where steady discipline is sure
of victory. With such troops no command-
er will calculate on success with any de-
gree of certainty, and the best arrangements
are generally fail of answering his intentions.
In [illegible] the remarks I have made upon
on volunteer militia corps, I am aware
that my opinions will meet no favor-
able response from the majority part
of our political men who have made
up their notions of war without an exami-
nation of its fundamental elements..

July 13. These fundamental elements I conceive to be the following.—Man is a different creature depending on science, study and experience in the duties of the campaign in all of its branches, whether strategical, tactical, economical or in habits of implicit obedience to orders. Men may possess natural bravery—be hardy and full of ardor, and yet lack the essentials of the soldier. Discipline requires docility, patience and cheerfulness under the most trying occasions—subordination, and the suppression of private opinions—no easy lesson for those who have been habituated to unbounded freedom at home. In this discipline the mind as well as the body, must be hardened, and worked up into a sort of machine very different from those usually formed in domestic life. A young man at home, may think he understands the value of a military life, from beholding the military foppery of militia parades; but all this vanishes on entering the hostile camp and feeling the hardships incident to his duty, and he soon turns his thoughts back to his home and longs for his former liberty, and appreciates no charms in the life of the soldier. Among volunteers, now and then one may be found of a different character, but these are few indeed; and the greater portion, when released from the irksome service are totally averse to a second campaign.

These defects of volunteers, it cannot be denied, are common to a great portion, of them, and must forever render them unfit for protracted service, where regular troops insure success by systematic movements united effort & regulated obedience

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[July 13.] But the two months' 'delay' of Gen. Taylor's forces on the banks of the Rio Grande, is a puzzle to the various advocates of the volunteer system. In the Senate Mr Hannegan from

[Senator Hannegan] Indiana, has recently moved resolutions for calling on the President for copies of the orders, given to Gen. Taylor (since the Battles) to advance into Mexico, or otherwise controlling the movements of the army; which, he says, has occasioned much dissatisfaction in the public prints. While the army is lying in large force at Mata-

[Demands copies of the President's orders] moros at heavy expense; and he is essential to know the cause of the delay. The good sense of the Senate rejected his resolutions as highly improper. This is a true specimen of the democratic spirit of our back woodsmen who suppose the City of Mexico is to be sacked with as much ease as an Indian lodge on their frontier.

Mr Polk may soon learn the character of of his hitherto supposed friends, who now seem willing to "carry him beyond the reach of the resurrection". Mr Polk's agency in settling the boundary of Oregon on the 49th degree of latitude, and thereby avoiding a war with Great Britain, is not to be forgotten by our western warhawks.

Mr Hannigan has been highly applauded by democracy, and his Biography recently presented to the

[Remarks on] public, with a portrait, in the Democratic Review, as one of the profound politicians of Indiana. His fame, however, it is believed, is but known at Indianapolis, where its fertile soil is supposed to be as productive of genius as of its crops of Indian Corn &c. But Mr Hannigans attainments in the art

July 13

of war seem not to have kept pace with
his preeminent knowledge of custom j-
urisprudence and stump oratory. With him and
his brethren of the democratic school, no
military instruction or experience, is necessary
to prepare soldiers for battle, other than skill
in the hunting rifle & tomahawk. Notwi-
thstanding having assembled on the Rio Grande, Mr
Flanagan calls on the President to show
the reasons of the delay of Gen. Taylor's army
upon the banks of the river, instead of mov-
ing in the light hunter's step, into the interior of
Mexico, forgetting that soldiers require discipl-
ine as well as arms. Inexperienced as is Mr
Polk and his cabinet in the operations of war, they claim
a knowledge of the business, far superior to the
Flanagan & his wild brethren of the west.
The "delay" of the army, to establish posts and mag-
azines ~~until the established~~, and until the hot
season is over, was foreseen by all who
have a knowledge of military operations. But
democracy has no foresight: it dashes on
heedlessly, and the prudent commander who
regards rules & system and the established
maxims of former generals, is unfit for its ser-
vice. The systems of Turenne, Marlborough and
Frederick, are obsolete; and those of Napoleon
and Wellington must give way before those of Jack-
son the hero of untaught woodsmen. Under
the progress of improvement Mr Polk need not be surprised
were the orderly books of the war office to be de-
manded for the inspection of Congress at short

Flanagans impatience

July 14 Tuesday Morn partially cloudy, wind NE but fair before noon; followed by a clear day & pleasant air, and SW wind, at night.

Accounts say, Mexican privateers are fitting out in some of the neutral ports in South America; this is not improbable, and our commerce may suffer loss thereby; and if the war continues we may find difficulty with other nations than Mexico. Preparations are made making for an invasion into the interior of the enemy's country, such as providing a waggon train, horses, boats &c. This of course will occupy some time, and Mr Hannegan may not be willing to submit to this delay; as the western volunteers are ready for progress without provisions, or a waggon train. Such slow movements are not admissible — in the new art of war, which requires no preparations.

15 Wednesday. Morn fair, wind N. and cooler and day fair & wind became NW. We hear of the death of many laboring people, from the hot weather which prevailed a few days past — some from drinking cold water, mostly in our large cities. They are said to die from Congestion of the Brain, a term not very well understood. It would be better to say, Died from the effects of heat, without explaining the modus operandi, which in many cases is beyond our ken.

16 Thursday Fair morn, wind NW. and cool air; and a fair day followed with mild air throughout. These sudden changes of temperature contributes to ... the position of the sun does m

July 17 Friday. Cloudy morn, wind N.; the 237
day continued cloudy & cool, & some rain; I
see papers notice the casting of a piece of ord-
Great Gun } nance at South Boston, under the superintendance
of Mr Alger & Col. Bomford, of the following di-
mensions & weight. Length 11 feet; diameter of the
base ring 39 inches; length of the bore 9 feet 1
inch; diameter of the bore 12 inches; weight
of the piece 25000 lbs; weight of the shot 230 lbs.
Range of the shot 3½ miles. Cost 1700 dollars
Of the utility of such guns for sea-coast
or siege batteries, I have the strongest doubts,
and consider them as one of the utopian
schemes of the day, resulting from little
experience of war upon a large scale:
Neither England nor France, have recourse to
such ordnance; and if they were useful
their experience would have taught them so.
In the early age of artillery large guns
were constructed, but soon found useless
and laid aside

18 Saturday. Cloudy, warm, - wind N.E. and
the day cloudy & so cold that I kindled
a fire in my room.
During the past week, we have of nothing im-
portant from Congress, nor of movements of
our army on the Rio Grande. Gen. Taylor no
doubt aware of the importance of delay on account
of the hot weather, and of preparation for an able
venue, remains inactive: this creates complaints
from democracy, who have supposed Mexico was
to be covered by a coup de main, before this time.

July 18. Another force composed principally of volunteers it is stated, is now on the march from Missouri to Santa Fee, under Col. Kearney now created a Brigadier General. Another one is said to be ordered round Cape Horn, to Upper California to take possession of that territory; Some that the President asks of Congress a sum of 12 millions of dollars for prosecuting the war with Mexico. This plus 10 millions already granted = 22 millions. Texas then is like to cost us a pretty solid sum, but we are to be indemnified by the annexation of California: So says Democracy. P.M. hot, north

[Margin: Expedition to Santa Fee]

19 Sunday: Cloudy morn: wind N.E, and the day cloudy. Some rain in the morning.

20 Monday. Morn cloudy; wind N: P.M. fair & SW wind; is warm; ~~day~~

21. Tuesday. Morn cloudy; wind NW. Soon became fair and pretty warm. P.M. wind S.W.

[Margin: Gen Taylor's volunteers]

Letters from the Rio Grande represent General Taylor's volunteers unruly, refractory, insubordinate, and every way as unfit for service as I had anticipated; and our President and his Cabinet will soon learn that numbers and heated zeal are but feeble means for the conquest of a distant country. Were the people of Mexico firmly united under a permanent Government, I think I may safely say, they would not be conquered by us without a strong regular army, led on by an able commander. Our numbers and militia parades have created a false notion of our military strength. A country so extended as is ours even with a population of 20 millions is weak at every point, when assailed by a powerful enemy

July commencing a superior aircraft force, which
21 may choose its point of attack. With 8 or 10
thousand floating forms, they may keep us in a
constant state of alarm and our militia on the
march to the exposed points, which must have
an injurious effect on the industry of the country.
Had we plunged into a war with Great Bri-
tain for the disputed territory of Oregon, this
would have been our condition. Yet we have
among us inconsiderate men, who regret that the
dispute with England has terminated without a
war. And who are these men? The same who
would upset, were it within their power, our
systems of State and federal government, for
their utopian schemes under the pretence of re-
form of abuses, of which none complain,
but the disorderly part of community.
That such men are found in an enlight-
ened community would seem impossible;
but such revolutionary principles are,
and no calculation can determine
the length to which they may extend. In the
French revolution they took a bloody course
under Robespierre, which may serve as a
sample never to be forgotten. But we may
have our Robespierres, and a Democratic
writer has boldly said "He is the man for
commoner"! Ye men of goodness, bestow
the name of Orestes A. Brownson, and let it be
written in the Characters of Draco!

22 Wednesday Cloudy morn with rain and
wind S.W. the day continued cloudy

News paper } This day, subscribed for the Saturday Rambler
H. H. Simonds Editor (Boston) Paid 1 year = 75 cents
[illegible] took a receipt signed W. H. Buck agent [illegible]

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July 22. In his prospectus the Editor promises a department of chaste and elegant literature, excluding alike the tame productions of sentimental imbecility, and the flood of flippant and immoral trash, already too well known in this community.

Its professed character. The Editor must not forget that elegant literature is not exactly calculated for the taste of many of his subscribers, and that if he attempts high refinement in his productions, he may find a want of patronage. In general our papers are deficient in essays suited to the man of science, who has little esteem for fictions, other than so far as they evince skill in writing in a good style, which chiefly constitutes the value of novels.

The paper is weekly, at $1.50 per year and is to be neutral in its politics; but will it find neutral readers sufficient for its support?

23 Thursday. Morn. fair, wind SW; fair day with scattering clouds and warm eve.

The Democrats who had supposed that Mexico would have been subdued by this time are puzzled to account for the "delay" of our army at and about Matamoras. Democratic views. Prepared as we are with so designate a force of militia corps, ready to volunteer their services, on the shortest notice, they supposed nothing was wanting but the President's orders to march, and seize

July the country. Subsistence & munitions of war were
23. of little importance; nor was a wide
Ferry base on the Rio Grande necessary, to once
replenish the ranks of the army, and they
might advance rapidly to any distance,
Sup / cord / ondu / dsp / ndi / tion conquering all before them. Any delay for
provisions or other necessaries, or until the hot season
was over, was to adopt the old obso-
lete art of war. Nor was any discipline
supposed necessary, further than what had been
taught at home on smooth parades in the
Bands of muscle, whose elegant reports were
provided, and elected officers, decorated with
feathers & epaulettes, might make speeches &
deliver sentiments commendatory of the
spirit of seventy six.

By this time, it is probable, Gen. Taylor asks
for no increase of militia volunteers, to conform
his provisions, and change the discipline of
his camp. But when Mr. Polk's new Generals
shall join him, he may feel a new stomach
for enterprise, since they will bring with them
vast strategic knowledge ~~[illegible]~~ acquired
in the schools of rifle tactics so methodically
practiced in our western states.

But if Democracy is uneasy at the "delay" of
Gen. Taylor, it is for Mr. Polk to appease
their impatience in the best manner he can;
and, perhaps, no movement for this purpose would
be more effectual than a rapid dash towards the City
of Mexico, in defiance of malaria or starvation.
But whatever be the operations of the army,
if they prove unsuccessful, the commanding
General is sure to meet the frowns of Democracy
nor would Mr Polk escape their censure.

242 July 24 } **Friday.** Fair morn, wind S.W.: the day continued fair, but clouds of [illegible] covered the sky.

Magnetic Telegraph } **Magnetic Telegraph.** The papers notice the failure in the operation of this machine from the breaking of the wires: that between N. York and Boston, says the Boston Post of the 22 instant, was broken in several places. This I have predicted would be the case on long lines, and probably will ultimately bring the machine into disrepute.

Fate anticipated } The projectors have with great confidence proposed "line" from Boston to New Orleans. Now I think I risk nothing in saying, that not one week in a year would elapse ... when the line would be in order for communicating intelligence. The plan appears to me impossible; and even on lines of 100, or less, miles the same difficulties will often occur. When we attempt to bind the laws of nature to our purposes, we should remember that they are not always obedient to our commands or wishes.

To what extent an electric shock may be sent, we have not ascertained; but I think we may safely assert, that a wire of 1000 miles, cannot remain continuous for a day. Let us then confine our efforts to practicable schemes; and here is scope for the most ingenious.

Man, it is true, perhaps [by] great powers of invention, has made wonderful improvements. But, "A man's a man for all that", and limited to a comparatively small sphere of action.

Aug. 25. Saturday. Mass. cloudy, some rain last night — wind N E, the day generally cloudy; sun seen at times.

The Democratic State Central Committee, (so called) have notified their brethren, that a State Convention is to be held at Boston on Wednesday the 16th of September next, to nominate a Governor, Lt Governor &c for the next political year. Of course we shall again be compelled to turn out at the election in November, to counteract their plans of disorganization. It is a matter of regret that a few men in the City of Boston, are able to keep the people of this Commonwealth in a political agitation, to gratify their selfish views. Should their exertions cease, peace, harmony, & good feelings would prevail among the people and our country would be happy under the execution of our constitutional privileges. A great portion of the people of the State, are peaceably orderly, and well disposed, and ought not to be disturbed by these uneasy men, who are, to give them their true name, disturbers of the welfare of community, and would subvert every salutary principle of a republic. When rhapsody and sophistry shall cease to delude the people, these disturbers of society will shrink back to deserved obscurity, and honorable men be esteemed. Until this time arrives, though we may think ourselves freemen, we are in fact under the worst of Tyrants, and our liberty a misnomer and a farce.

244 July 26 Sunday: [illegible] fair - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Shower P.M. & something more than fair and clear & [illegible] N.E.

A young man of the name of J. M. Boltwood of the Theol. Institute at East Windsor Ct writes me requesting information respecting two of his ancestors, Sergeant Samuel Boltwood & his son Robert Boltwood, killed in [illegible] meadow fight, at the time Deerfield was destroyed in 1704, and makes other inquiries. I shall endeavor to answer his letter as soon as I have examined facts.

The men killed in this meadow fight, according to Rev. Stephen Williams of Longmeadow, were Samuel Allis, Serg. Boltwood, Robert Boltwood, Joseph Catlin, Samuel Foot, David Hoit jr. Jonathan Ingram, Serg. Benjamin Wait, Samuel [illegible] (9.)

The Boltwoods came from Hatfield, and I believe several others who made a hurried march to Deerfield, on hearing of attack of the enemy. The battle, it is supposed, was in what we call Great Bottom & Great Meadow, and perhaps [illegible] into what we call Dickinson's pasture. Part of the enemy, it is said, moved up the river, turned the left flank of the English, and nearly gained their rear. The number of English engaged is not known, probably much less than the enemy. The fight must have been generally on the open field or [illegible] westerly of Broughton's Pond, deeply covered with snow & stormy crust at the time.

The following traditional account of ...

[Left margin note: What tradition respecting my [illegible]]

[Left margin note: Concerning the Boltwood]

July the fall of the two Bottwoods, has been
26. given by the late General E. Mattoon of Amherst
whose Grandmother was a daughter of
Samuel Bottwood.

The Father being wounded by a ball,
supposed mortally, his son Robert, took
him upon his back to carry him to the
fort, which he had nearly reached, to
one, as he supposed, out of ~~the reach of~~
danger, when he was shot by one of
the enemy. On receiving his wound the
father first urged his son to leave him & seek
his own safety in flight, but to this the
son would not consent.
If this took place near the fort, the enemy
made a closer approach, in their pursuit,
than I had supposed

27 Monday. Fair morn — wind No. fol-
lowed by a fair day.
Congress are still in session and
now attempting a modification of the
Tariff, which is a delicate movement
at this time. A reduction of the Rev-
enue, might result in a direct tax
for the support of the war with Mexi-
co, and nothing would so effectu-
ally open the eyes of the people to
its necessity. Once let the people feel
the expenses of the war, and all the
arguments of democracy would not maintain
its popularity. Its election with Mr Polk
at the head, would soon become in the true light

2214 } Tuesday. Fair mor., wind N.; July } day fine & warm: almost warm. S.W.
28. }
Received a friendly letter from
Letter } one of my old Antimasonic friends of
from } Boston, Henry Gassett Esqr; with ~~with~~
Henry } the Lynn Pioneer, containing animad-
Gassett } versions on an article of Rev. Parsons Cooke
(Editor) of the New England Puritan; in which the "Anti masonic Tragedies" are hinted at. It gives me pleasure to have been Mr Gassette and other Antimasonic friends who distinguished themselves in the ~~the~~ war with masonry, after its murder of Morgan. Dr. Porter, another of the corps, who lately gave me a call, living at Boston informed my old friends that I was still living. The memory of those gentlemen I trust will not be eradicated during my life. They were a worthy set of men and acted from pure principles, against the risk of their welfare, and those who were seceding masons exposed their lives. In reviewing the incidents of my life, none give me more satisfaction than the part I took against the nefarious combination, which had become so powerful in some parts of the states, as to control elections & appointments to office, and even murder its dissenting members with impunity. If the ~~the~~ terms I have used are deemed harsh by any, let them examine the abominable oaths administered in the several degrees, as published by numerous seceding masons.

July 29 Wednesday. Fair morn. wind S.W. and the day fair with [illegible] air

The War. We hear of no movements of our Army on the Rio Grande. Will democracy be patient at such delay? Mr Polk must see to this, or Mr. Hannigan may again demand sight of the Orderly Book of the war-office. No secrets in a Republic! is the motto of the day.

30 Thursday. Cloudy morn, wind S.W. the day partially fair and evening thunder [?] the clouds [?], but little or no rain.

Mr Ashmun's speech. Congress. On the 27th instant Mr. Ashmun our Representative, addressed the House, for one hour, mainly against the administration, and in review of the course relative to the war with Mexico. He maintained that the Executive had designedly brought the war about. This no doubt is true, but Mr Polk's obligations to his party, left him no other course. The adjustment of the Oregon dispute would not have been peaceably adopted, had John Bull's power been as feeble as that of Mexico. The object of the war is now clearly ascertained to be, the annexation of California to our Union and Mexico may be compelled to submit to the encroachment. Mr Polk is now authorized to conquer peace with Mexico, but on what terms is not known. Many insist on a dissolution of that government and an annexation of its territory to our Union. What power is to intrust to one man!

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July 31. Friday. Cloudy rain; wind S.W. Rather fair & cloudy, with variable wind from S.W. to N.E. — very pretty warm —

The Army. By the latest accounts from our army on the Rio Grande, it appears that the volunteers have not as yet been favored with an opportunity to show their prowess in battle; they are stationed in detached camps, undergoing a sort of hardening, and learning something of camp duty. But Gen. Taylor will find them refractory scholars; and probably he is not very desirous of testing them in a field fight. If he can keep them in subordination in his camps, he will be fortunate beyond any former commander.

August 1. Saturday. Morn fair, wind N. and fair day. —

Letter to Mr Bottwood. Mailed a Letter to Mr. L. M. Bottwood of the Theol. Institute at East-Windsor. Ct. in answer to his, noted page 244. Mr B. is desirous of ascertaining the place where Sergeant Bottwood and his son Robert fell and were buried. In my letter I have given my opinion on these desiderata, founded on my knowledge of the battle, and of the nature of the ground, combined with Gen. Hoyt's [?] traditional account. The most fatal point of the action, I think, was at or near the outlet of Bloody Brook's [?] pond, emptying into Deerfield River at Fields Islands, after the enemy turned the left flank of our people and gained the ground in the rear of that flank. If Sergeant Bottwood was

Conjecture been wounded at, or near this outlet,
1. and his son attempted to carry him to
the fort upon his back, the direct course
to the N Wampum way through Dickinson's Great pasture
to the west end of the Dickinson, or Ralph
Williams, or Stebbins, home lot, which would have
been near the fort, as stated by Gen. Mattoon,
and of course, the Indians must have pur-
sued as far as Little meadow hill at the rear
of these lots. Young Buttwood might
have been taken a more easterly course into the
Ashley, or Sheldon, or Hoyt home lot, or sung
the Indians approaching from the river at
Field Island; but if he fell in either of these
lots he would not have been very near the
fort and out of supposed danger. The Dickinson
or Williams' home lot, I think, best answers the
description given by Gen. Mattoon.
The battle is supposed to have begun in the North-
ly part of what is called the Great Bottom,
with a part of Rouvill's force, which acted
across the River from Sheldon's brook
at the foot of Petty's plain; but somewhat the Indian
pursued up the river through Carter's Land-
to, or near Field Island, where the ground
favored their ambuscade, which might not have
been discovered by our people, until they turned
the left flank. But our people fought our
retreat through Great bottom & great meadow
and perhaps through Dickinson's great pasture.
Rouvill is said to have lost about 40 in
the action; but this I consider as doubtful.
The details of the battle as they have reach-
ed us, are not so minute as desired; but from
what we have obtained, the above I think is
nearly correct. It is the ...

250 June, after the attack at the great falls
Aug 1. (now called after his name) in 1676, the Indians pursued through an meadow, then the battle I have described, was the second fought on the same ground, besides several of some lesser small parties —

Respecting the place where the two Bettwoods were buried, I stated in my former letter the following in my letter to Mr Battwood: All the slain in the meadow fight as well as within the fort, were interred in one grave in an old yard, on the bank of an ravine, and of course, here the Bottwoods were without doubt deposited, unless they had been conveyed home to Hatfield by the surviving Hatfield men; and this is not very probable: And I recommended an examination of the monuments in the old Grave yard and the records of that town for some memoranda. If none can be found there, little doubt can remain, that the two Bottwoods were buried in an old grave yard.

Questions of this kind, I am aware, will excite very little interest in the young of the present day, who seem to have lost all respect for antiquity.

Dr Johnson's Sentiments on visiting scenes

But with Dr Johnson I say: "Far be from me or my friends, such frigid philosophy, as may conduct us indifferent and unmoved, over any ground that has been dignified by wisdom, bravery or virtue." — Just as I had penned the above, a young friend called on me with a carriage & invited me to make a visit through the north meadow, the scene of the event, just noted. The surface is now covered with promising crops, indicating industry & peace

August 1. and harmony; the reminiscences were rushing upon my mind, and I pointed out to him the position Rouville took with his captives after returning his march through the meadow to his baggage left at Sheldons brook; also his movements in the meadow fight, also the place where Capt. Turner forded the river on his march to the falls in 1676, with other incidents of the Indian wars. I pointed out the heights from which the Rev. Mr. Williams says he beheld the smouldering ruins of his village, What a scene! And what emotions heaved in his breast when he beheld his flock plunging forward in the deep snow to the extent of 300 miles through pathless woods to the St. Lawrence, under the unfeeling guidance of savages whose religion was the tomahawk and scalping knife.

reflections: The heart callous to such scenes will receive no useful impressions in tracing the thrilling events that occured in our village and adjacent meadows, from Philips war in 1675 to the conquest of Canada in 1760 during which time, except short intervals, the laborers were compelled to carry into the field, fire arms as well as implements of husbandry, and their lives were in constant jeopardy

We who now dwell in this peaceful vale, reaping its bountiful products, should not forget the thrilling scenes & sufferings of our fathers during the wars, nor their enduring anxieties in the intervals of peace

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August 2 } Sunday. Fair warm, wind N.E.; very clear and pleasant air. The ground is is now dry, and no old fashioned thunder showers occur.

3 / 3 } Monday. Fair warm, wind N. exp a fair day. P.M. wind S.W.

Request of G.T. Davis } George T. Davis Esqr. of Greenfield requests me to furnish an appropriate Indian name for a new public Hall erecting in the main village in that town. I have recommended the Indian name Green River, as found in a copy of one of Deeds, from Chaque, the Sachem of Pocomtuck, in 1645, to Dedham people. The name is spelt Pickommuegon. and

Indian name of Green River } Pechommuag, either of which will answer. A taste now prevails for giving Indian names to places, but we have descended to us, and most of our rivers, hills &c. have English designations.

Most Indian names are significant, and as written by our people; often contain whole sentences, which renders the pronunciation difficult, and the accent and emphasis uncertain. In the Chaque deed

other I. names } to the Dedham people the following names are found which are supposed to be some tracts of land on the river: viz from SW to NE Nayyocossuck, Tomholisuck, Musquomcossick, Ustowuck, Wusquawbuag, Pochowee, Sunsuck (hill). But I am unable to locate them. Perhaps they in part are meadows, on the west side of the river

August from Green river up to still-water,
3. and Sun such hill, the height of the
mountain on the west.

The ~~[illegible]~~ ground, at and about Shelden's Brook,
south of Canton land, always excites my
attention, from its being the place where Hertel de
Rouville assembled his captives, after the destruction
of our village in March 1704, and prepared
for his march to Canada. The west bank of
the river, at and above the brook, has under-
gone considerable alteration since that time,
by the abrasion of the ~~[illegible]~~ bank, ~~[illegible]~~ even since my
recollection. Near the mouth of the brook
was the ford where Capt. Turner passed the river on his
expedition to the great falls on the Connecticut
in 1676; and from the old Indian path as-
cended the steep hills to Petty's plain in the direction
to Greenfield meadows. Here on ascending the
second rise to the Plain, the Rev. John Williams took ~~his~~
his mournful view of the smoking village, as he states
in his "Redeemed Captive".

This I call Classic ground, not to be forgotten, and
I would give the upper height the name of Williams
Mournful View. But interesting as is this ground
to me, it is now scarcely known to our
youngsters, who seem indifferent to antiquated
events, and look not for places ~~[illegible]~~ that have
been "dignified" by the virtuous daring ~~[illegible]~~ of their Pro-
genitors, when a few were many perished in many capital event. to
[illegible] upon their family.

4 Tuesday. Morn fair - wind S.W.; the day con-
tinued fair & pretty hot.
Joseph Dinny Esqr. & Lady, arrived on a visit
& Geo. Arthur from Boston. Left the City at 7
& came around about 5 P.M. - 10 hours passage.

Ground in 18[illegible] at and near brook

Turn's his Ford

Williams Mournful View

 Wednesday. Warm morning - wind SW.
August and day clear & hot. No indications
5. of thunder showers. Have been noticed
Weather for several days: and the ground is dry
which must check the growth of the
second crop of Grass; but the weather
is fine for the crop of Indian corn and
broom-brush

6 Thursday. Morn thinly cloudy, but soon broken
and wind SW; the day in general fair
and warm.

The frequent inquiries of various gentle-
men for Indian names and transactions
Notes at once in the vicinity of our town, has in-
Historical duced me to review and continue my
Antiquarian Researches; and though I find
nothing new, I meet facts which corroborate
strengthen my former conclusions. In my teens I
might have obtained many particulars from
my Father and other aged men, who are
now beyond inquiry, and whose accounts
I should now consider of high interest.
My Grandfather lived to the age of 92
and was born about 1680. I well remember him
when while confined at age to his house. He was
one of the Deerfield Captives in 1704, and while
in active life related many particulars to his family.
came from my father I obtained many facts
repeated by his father of importance, who also lived to the age of 92.
and kept a sort of journal of later Indian
depredations. I now regret that I had not
made more particular inquiries of him, in rela-
tion to many points of interest relating to the history
of the town.

Desid A plan of the village as it existed in 1704
eratum with the the picketed fort in the centre, and al
... the meadows, exhibiting the roads at and

prior to that time, and was deficient. 253

6 We have an old delineation of the north meadow, called Gibbins's plan, showing the line of the first lots, & the river, but upon a small scale, and it is deficient in minutiae.

Doolittle's map of the village & north meadow from an actual survey, in which a meridian was traced, astronomically, is a good one, but of course, does not exhibit the old roads & lots.

My Progenitors were the following: Nicholas Hoyt of Windsor Conn, David Hoyt of Hadley, removed to Deerfield, Jonathan Hoyt [redacted], David Hoyt (2). Formerly the name was generally spelt Hoit. Nicholas I suppose came from England with Gov. Winthrop 1630, and was one of the company who settled Windsor: he had a brother of the name of Simon Hoit, settled at the same place.

David, son of Nicholas, was one of the settlers of Hadley, and was with Capt. Turner in the attack at the great falls; afterwards settled at Deerfield and was one of the Captives taken at this place in 1704, & died near Cowass from starvation. His son Jonathan was captured at the same time, carried to Canada, at the age of 14, and resided with the Indians 2½ years, at a place called Lorette, near Quebec. See my Brother Elihu's "Brief Sketch of the first settlement of Deerfield", published 1833.

7 Friday. Morn fair, wind N. followed by a fair day, pretty hot; the sky hazy but no indications of showers. Night, not one of Espy's fine producers of sudden change.

256. We are looking clearly for the close of

August 7. the session of Congress, when President Polk and his cabinet will be left to manage the Mexican War as may best suit their designs; and whether they will place any reliance on the opinions of General Scott is doubtful. This officer's experience and knowledge of war, may smack too much of the old tactics to suit their untried theories, which defy all lessons drawn from former practices of armies.

Congress soon to adjourn

The campaigns of Turenne, Marlborough, Eugene, Condé, Saxe, & Frederick 2d., have lost their eclat in the immethodical operations of Bonaparte. But this reckless innovator, once so much admired by our democracy, has lost something of his military character, by suffering himself to be beaten by the crowned heads of Europe, & finally by his defeat by the consummate Wellington at Waterloo.

Remarks on the war

This innovating system is not yet to be given up. Our democratic government is now attempting to show that the old system of discipline, with its modes of attack & defence of fortified places, is to be abandoned for the volunteer scheme, which requires no previous instruction or preparature.

A new mode of conquering contiguous territories is adopted. The populace of these countries are first told of the blessings of free governments, where universal suffrage is abandoned to the people, of course under little or no restraint in governing acts. This is a swelling

this limit, and resolved to separate themselves from
7. their legitimate government, they are next invit-
ed to join our Union, and on accepting the
offer, an army is sent to aid them in their
struggle for democratic liberty. And thus
the revolting territory is annexed to us. If a
Texan fashions, and the injured nation pushes
a military force into the revolted territory, it
is said to be an invasion of our own. Thus
is the territory of Mexico, [illegible] to be sliced off, and
annexed to our union, until, at least, all North
America is brought under our grasp. This is
the democratic system now in operation.
In all this procedure moral right is out of the
question, and power the only criterion. But we,
like the ancient Romans, we may find the nations
of Europe too powerful and eagle-eyed, to submit
to our encroachments on their possessions in America.
Congress will leave Mr. Polk in command of
the purse strings of the treasury, and his 50.000 vol-
unteers, to conquer peace with Mexico, on his
own terms; and what these may be is known
only to himself and his cabinet. California to
the latitude of the mouth of the Rio Grande will probably
be the slice for damages and costs.

8. Saturday. Mor: fair, wind S.W., but some-
what hazy. P.M. Cloudy with some rain.
which has produced an agreeable temperature
of the air, invigorating to the animal spirits,
and refreshing to vegetation.
Thus, though we sometimes feel the extremes
of heat & vegetation [illegible] from the gleaming rays of
the Sun, the reviving [illegible] of Heaven continue
their [illegible] the requisite humidity.

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August 9 — Sunday. Cloudy warm, sometimes capped with fog, and wind N.W. Nearly calm, Sun seen before noon. Most of the day cloudy.

Notice of Dr Lepsius' discoveries in Egypt

M. de Montalt, in a letter to the Academy of Inscriptions & Belles Lettres at Paris gives the following in relation to Dr Lepsius' discoveries in Egypt. He says 1300 magnificent drawings, thousands of sketches taken on the spot, and all the manuscripts, have already arrived in Berlin; and two vessels laden with monuments collected, on the way. These, including specimens of Egyptian art under all the dynasties, from the fourth of Manetho down to the Ptolemies. Their original monuments, bearing the names of the 4th 5th & 6th dynasties, two or three thousand years before our Era, will be of great importance. Images & inscriptions from the copper mine district in the peninsula of Sinai, and bearing the name of Cheops, are numerous. Among the treasures are the Great stones of the Nilometer of Semneh, with the emblem of Amenemha Moeris, proving that 4000 years ago, the mean height of the river reached that of to-day by 22 feet; hundreds of books bearing dates; 500 large historical papyri; materials for the study of the Kongara, Nubian & Bega tongues; and ancient Ethiopian inscriptions found in the pyramids of Meroe, traced in an unknown alphabet. (Boston paper, August 1st)

I have been waiting with impatience to hear from Dr Lepsius discoveries, and shall now look for an important work from him. The history of Egypt may at length be known; and perhaps

...something more of other ancient nations
9. of Africa and Asia, beyond what is found in Herodotus and other ancient Authors. Dr Lepsius went out under the patronage of the Prussian Government, and was furnished with money to defray expenses of subterranean researches, and he employed large numbers of laborers. Some previous accounts, I have noticed. What an interesting subject for inquiring minds!

10 Monday. Fair morn—wind N.W. continued fair most of the day, but became cloudy towards the close, when some rain fell.

Mr Polk's war makes but slow progress, but preparations are making for a push into Mexico as soon as the army can be furnished with the necessaries, and the heat of the climate will admit. This delay was not even dreamed of by our wild democracy, who supposed nothing necessary but the order of the President to march, on the double quick pas de charge, & take possession of the whole of Mexico, & without waiting for the establishment of magazines and military bases, or disciplining troops as under the old art of war now become obsolete to our militia enthusiasts.

If Mr Polk has now discovered, that soldiers require food, clothes, sleep &c, and he is now constructing waggons, shaving out tent-poles, & building boats & pontoons for his army; and that time is required for these preparations, he must not forget that his democrats,

260 democrats are impatiently, watching his de-
August lays and may construe them into a tardiness
10 inconsistent with democratic "progress" which
asks not for precedents or cool reflections,
but "goes ahead" regardless of consequences.
But Mr. Polk may, perhaps, escape their con-
demnation, by adopting the new system of
conquest by gradual annexation, alamode de
Texas; but it is not to be supposed his impetu-
ous friends will be satisfied short of the whole
of Mexico; and at length of the West India Islands
more "wrongfully" held by European powers
who remain blind to the blessings of demo-
cratic liberty, which is the inalienable right
of all men, excepting the black race who were
"created for the convenience of the other part of
God's creation".

11 Tuesday. Fair morn, wind N.E., and
a fine clear day and pleasant air.
P.M. wind S.W.

12 Wednesday. Fair Morn, – wind S.W.
and a fair day followed.
It is rumored that the Mexican Government
is disposed to bring the war to a close by
surrendering California to our Government.
What foundation there is for this rumor
I know not. But this probably will be the
result; and in vain will she expect more
Mexi favorable terms by a prolongation of the con
co test, unless she settles down upon a perma
nent and energetic government; and be
comes a military nation. Without this attitude
Mexico will at all times be compelled to submit
to our encroachments, and cease to be an inde
pendent nation. The time of emancipation

August which our government has in view, is 261 at least as far as latitute of the mouth of the Rio
12 Grande, and including the whole of the peninsula of California — A country little less than the one half of the United States as now limited, or that of Rome in the hight of its power: and our future history may be filled with scenes of ambition and injustice not less appalling than those of that usurping nation, which at length met its fate in a total ruin, a fall and extinction, — the same path of inordinate ambition.

13 Thursday. Morn fair, wind SW.; warm day and pretty hot.

The old Indian Deed I have noticed, on page 252, from Chaque to Dedham people was given to Capt. John Pynchon of Springfield for the use and behoof of Major Eleazer Lusher and Ensign Daniel Fisher, and other English of Dedham, their associates & assigns, and to them and their heirs forever. Description of the land is as follows: "Certain tracts of land at Pocomtuck on the further side, or the opposite side, or North side of Pocomtuck river: that is to say, beginning a little above where Pickcommegan river runs into Pocomtuck river, and so a little way up Pickcommeg river, and then leaving Pickcommegan river, runs off to the Hill Sunsuck westward. All the lands from the Hill Sunsuck on the west rand down the River Pocomtuck, eastward, be low Neggycopsic to Pochewee near the mouth Pickcommegan river. ~~All the aforesaid described~~

242 which parcels, ~~tracts~~, of Land, lane ~~lying~~ called [1]Nayyocopsuck,
August [2]Toonkolupsuck, [3]Mussquonocopsick, [4]Ustow-
13. wack, [5]Wussqueauwag, and so "[6]Sunsuck
Hill; or by whatever names the said land
is or may be called".

Judith's point — Indian names of places —

Sunsuck hill, I suppose to be, our west moun-
tain extending southerly to Stillwater, & the
tract conveyed, all the land lying between
the mountain and Deerfield river, down to Ju-
dith's point, at the mouth of Green-river, but
the northerly boundary is uncertain.
The names above given may be parcels of land
on the west side of our river, extending from
Stillwater upper to Judith's point, which seems not
to be included in the Deed: or the names may
have been, inhabited lodges, on the knows of
the meadow hills, west.
The present names of the meadow tracts on the
west side of our river, are [1]Tiffy new part,
from to stillwater, [2]New Fort, [3]Old Fort, [4]Cowan's
Land, [5]Clesson's Swamp. The numeral figures
placed above the names are ~~supposed~~ intended to cor-
respond with the ~~...~~ names numerals placed above
the Indian names, in the extract from the
Deed. If my construction of the Deed is
correct; we have the Indian names of the meadows
on the west, and part of the North side of
the river. Judith's Point was called
Packewee: — Deed dated 24th. Feby. 1665. and
witnessed by John Pynchon Justice and We-
quamocho, by his mark ✓, who helped the
sachem in making the bargain.
Worthington in his History of Dedham
says: "Capt. John Pynchon procured four deeds
from the Indians, which were deposited in
deacon Aldis' Box. The copy of the deed
... was obtained by my uncle

August Jonathan Hoyt while attending the General
13 Court at Boston, from a Dedham gentle-
man; and after his death presented to
me by his Son Cephas Hoyt. Of its genuineness
I think there can be no doubt.
For a notice of Major Eleazer Lusher and Ensign
Daniel Fisher, & his father, see Worthington's Ded-
ham; and for explanations of many Indian
names, see Roger Williams Key to the
Languages of the natives of New-England,
published in the collections of the Historical
Society at Boston. The work may be found
in our Social Library.
Drake's Book of the Indians of North
America contains a numerous collection
of the names of most noted Chiefs, with sketches
of their characters — a work of much re-
search into the Indian History of our
Country.
Nota. Copies of the the 3 other deeds, of Pocumtuck
would be interesting to us. Since they might furnish
with other Indian names of parts of the town.
2° In the copy of the deed I have, the name of
Wapahoal, another of the Indian Chagues,
is inserted. In my Antiquarian Researches, page
74, it is printed Wapahaal.
14 Friday. Fair morn, — wind S W: last
night very hot, and musquetoes plenty. The
day hot; but there is no indications of
thunder showers, which generally occurred
50 or 60 years ago when this kind of weather
prevailed. On this deficiency of Showers I
have frequently remarked in my journals, and ...

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August 14. and more confirmd in the opinion, that this variation is to be explained by the fact that the clearing of the county of its woods effects evaporation, the formation of clouds, and the electrical state of the atmosphere. In a country covered with dense woods, the humidity of the soil must be greater than that of an open one, where the suns rays are unobstructed; and in the former case the soil will remain humid, but in the latter arid. And it is found the rivers and springs lessen their quantity of water as the contiguous woods are cleared off; and small streams & lakes in some instances ~~disappear~~ vanish. Hence it appears that through the agency of man alterations may be effected on the Earth's surface of an important — Mountains of his ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible] the surface of the earth~~

Margin: Effects of clearing a County of its woods

He may cut down, or tunnel through mountains; fill up valleys; drain marshes, or inundate ~~[illegible]~~ dry tracts; construct canals, rail ways, build cities, ~~[illegible]~~ Chinese walls & Egyptian pyramids. But in all these operations he is only using the laws of nature; and when he attempts to bend them to his purposes, or step beyond them, ~~his~~ his efforts ~~[illegible]~~ become vain; and he finds himself a limited being, and his proudest works but baubles when compared with those of the great Primum Mobile.

15 Saturday. Morn thinly cloudy and wind NW cabounty day, with fair color, and cooler air than for several past days.

Mr Ashmun sends me his printed

speech delivered in the house of Represen- 275
15 sentatives, July 27th, & the same I have no-
ticed at page 247. His position that the
President, had intentionally brought on
the war with Mexico, is well sustained
by various documents cited. But in the
course who will entertain a doubt, that
the President followed the preconcerted scheme of
democracy, understood at the time of his
nomination. The possession of the "whole of
Oregon" was included in the plan; but the
times changed Mr. Polk, and
he ventured to vary from his instructions,
though at the risk of his popularity, as is
shown by Mr. Senator Hannegan's remarks
on the subject. The President has been true
to his party, so far as the plan relates
to Mexico, and ^which no doubt will be faithfully
executed, to the satisfaction of democracy.
The following has been the process.
Texas, by various turnings & twistings, having
been annexed to our Union, offered a con-
venient pretext for sending an army of "ob-
servation" to the Nueces, to watch any move-
ments the Mexicans might make to pro-
tect their frontier; but to the army remaining
in it, camped at Corpus Christi unmolested
our Government perceiving that the occupanc-
y of this position was not certain to produce
a collision, ordered Gen. Taylor to advance
and take a position on the Rio Grande
opposite to Matamoras, a Mexican town, occupied
by their troops: This movement it was fore-
seen would produce the collision and effect the

266 accomplish the design. Gen Taylor select
15 ed the desired position and threw up temp
Devel orary works for its protection. But Mr Polk
op ment of and his cabinet, better versed in democratic
chicanery than in strategy, seem not to have
been aware that other troops would require
provisions for subsistence, and lines of
operation with a competent magazine at Point
Isabell & other places. This exposed position of our army
being perceived by the Mexican commander,
Gen Arista, he passed the Rio Grand with about
6000 or 7000 men, and after cutting off a re
connoitring party from Gen. Taylors camp, took
a position in his rear, thus rendering his situ
ation critical.

The Presidents object was now accomplished
he communicated the state of the army
to Congress, and proposed the raising a vol
unteer force of 50000 men to carry on the
war with Mexico and conquer a peace. This
was readily granted, with 10 millions of
dollars, for the outfit.

Gen. Taylor, in the mean time, extricated
his force from that critical position, procured
a supply of provisions from point Isabell,
and defeated the Mexicans in two attacks
on the 8th and 9th of May. & compelled them
to recross the River.

The main object of Mr Polk was now
accomplished, namely, war with Mexico.
by which California is to be wrested from
that republic. His movements since are
all adapted to his scheme, as Mr Ashmun
has clearly shown by cited documents.
If, says Mr Ashmun, "such schemes are

[illegible] to be quietly suffered — if the public voice
15. does not rebuke them — I see a portentous omen of the early and premature decay into which our institutions are fast falling". — But what avail such admonitions against a ruthless democracy, which traces out convenient demarkations on maps, without regarding old ties, or moral obligations; now deemed obsolete in the democratic code

16 Sunday: Morn cloudy but soon fair, with S.W. wind, and a fair day, but many loose clouds, and air hot.

For some time past I have omitted a thermometrical state of the air, not having leisure. I have but confidence in these observations when made with good thermometers; but from the want of accuracy in noting them, and the defective mode of exposing the instrument at the proper time and place. In clustered cities where the air is pent, especially in a calm, the thermometer gives but imperfect indications of the true state of the ~~heat of the~~ atmospheric temperature, and even where the buildings are sparse, errors arise from suspending the instruments on the walls or bodies of houses. Hence the differences observed even of the same instrument. The most favourable position I think is found in suspending the instrument from the limb of a tree where it is shaded from the sun rays, but even where there is good some unfavourable effect may arise from the influence of [illegible]

August 16 Our papers often give us thermometrical observations made in different places, but from the want of the knowledge of the manner in which the instrument was exposed, we are left in doubt as to the accuracy of the observations; and no doubt the instruments are often defective in their graduation

17 Monday - Morn thinly cloudy; with a S.W. wind; day cloudy and fine and hot;

Close of the Session of Congress — Congress closed its Session on the 10th inst (Monday last). When the session commenced it was the design of a majority of the House to bring on a war with Great Britain by persisting in their scheme of claiming the territory of Oregon up to the latitude of 54°40, which they chose to call the "whole of Oregon" - a territory to which they could show no more title than to the shores of the northern Sea. No matter about the justice of the claim! If persisted in, they knew a war with Great Britain would be the consequence; and would afford democracy

No war — the opportunity of fighting that nation of "Robbers & Pirates"; and Mr Polk was supposed to be pledged to that course. But however the Senate, by its prudence, defeated the nefarious plan, to the great disappointment of the wild war hawks in ranks of Congress. The plan of slicing off California from Mexico, was not however abandoned; and the steps now taken will, no doubt, accomplish that scheme. Mr Polk now pretends to be disposed to end the war with Mexico, on terms advantageous to both nations. What these terms may be, is unknown

August to all except his confidents; but no dis-
17 cerning man, who has watched his, into
the diminutive movements, ~~[illegible]~~, is at
a loss to conjecture the terms. The annexa-
tion of California, will afford a fine op-
portunity for forming nine States, to be added
to our union, and thereby insure the
predominance of the southern over the
northern States. To "peace," on these terms, no
doubt Mr Polk will consent, and nothing short
of them will satisfy the majority of his clever friends, the
vociferous declaimers of "natural and private
rights." Mexico must, however, pay the cost
of prosecution, and whether she will be
left an independent nation is to be seen, "in future."
But Mr Polk must not accept of terms until
his Regiment of military emigrants, under Col.
Stevens, or doubled Cape Horn and have grasped
the promised land of California. ~~[illegible]~~
As Congress has now closed its session,
Mr Polk is left to manage the war according
to his discretion. But by the latest ac-
counts from the army, it does not appear that
a movement is soon to be made towards the
City of Mexico. The Picayune says, ships are
arriving at New Orleans, bringing home volunteers
who came to be "mustered out of the army"; among
which is, one company of Alabama troops. Six
companies of other Alabamians, all of the Louisiana
and the St Louis Legion, are to follow as speedily
as transportation can be furnished, the whole to
amount to 5000. The ostensible ground of this
movement is, said to be, the disinclination of the
men to enlist for 12 months. But probably these
as well as the other volunteers, will exhibit so
[illegible]

27a and carry off them [illegible] implements
August of agriculture, or the mechanic arts; who
17. threw aside the ~~tools~~ at a moment of military enthusiasm
without reflecting on the hardships of the camp
or the fatal diseases of the climate, which
probably prove fatal to a considerable extent.
The same paper says, "more extensive hospitals had been ordered to be erected at Point
Isabel, for the accommodation of a large
number of sick. Poor fellows! when they
left their proper employments, little did
they apprehend that malaria would thin
their ranks more effectually than ~~the~~ Mexican bullets. Our young men will probably learn one useful lesson from this
campaign — namely, that citizens are not
soldiers, and that the art of war is
not taught by bands of music on militia
parades, or by speeches and toasts delivered at elegant dinners prepared at
[illegible] hotels, where the "men refreshed themselves after the fatigues of the ~~[illegible]~~ day."
And well might it be, were the lesson
to extend to some of our political patriots who are charmed by such
frivolities, and think it a demonstration
of the military strength of our country.

Mr Polk faithful to his party, has involved the country in an unnecessary war; and
it is now his task to bring it to a close
before the people feel its cost, and rally
at the ballot boxes to express their detestation of his measures, and to place pure ~~patriots~~
patriots in office, who will keep the welfare of the country in view, rise above the out
[illegible] prejudices generated by the campaign, and render
the people happy.

August 18 — Tuesday. Fair morn, wind N.E. and cool air, the day continued the same, and wind unchanged.

Rail Road — Trains of cars commenced running on the Rail road from Bloody Brook to Northampton on Monday the 17th instant. The completion of the road from Bloody Brook to Greenfield on the injudicious route over ravines, which might, and might have been avoided, will hardly be effected this season, and the bridge at Cheapside will require some time for the finishment.

Our Street has hitherto been a thorough fare for stage coaches, North and South, but on the completion of rail road, the travel will have but a distant glance of our village, and we shall know of its passage only by the puffing smoke of the engine, dragging the line of Cars on the retired route, remarkable only from its monotonous features and its uninteresting prospects. To this location of the road, we would complacently submit, had not nature provided a more eligible, cheaper, safer and permanent route at the foot of our eastern hills, crossing our home lots on nearly level land. To account for the singular selection of the route, would be difficult on the supposition that it was dictated by sane minds. The case is too plain to admit the slightest doubt, as to the reason of the location

272 Wednesday. Warm & fair. N. E. wind

August 19 } Air cool: a warm day—

Through the kindness & courtesy of my friend Dr. S. W. Williams, who [illegible] I took a reconnaissance of the ground about the mouth of Sheldon's brook; the interesting site where Hertel de Rouville collected his prisoners, taken at the destruction of our village in 1704, and made his preparations for his march to Canada. On the callous indifference ~~[illegible]~~ of heart of a young man, in passing over this and other scenes of Indian depredation ~~[illegible]~~ on our early settlements, I have remarked (on page 250). But it gives me pleasure to find ~~in~~ Dr Williams, & a few others, partaking the sentiments of ~~[illegible]~~ Dr. Johnson expressed on viewing the ruins of Iona in the western Islands of Scotland, ~~[illegible]~~ as I have quoted in the same page.

If such emotions are considered by the young, as peculiar to old men in their dotage, the latter (to use the words of the same) will say; "That man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plains of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona."

Impressed with these sentiments, I accompanied Dr. Williams over the old Indian grounds, and sought out the ~~[illegible]~~ places where our distressed people, trembling under the apprehensions of the tomahawk, submitted to

Reconnoissance of old scenes

Reflections

Lampt to the fury of this savage captains,
19. who bound the prisoners with the hellish design to sacrifice them in case of the defeat
Shel of the fame ingaged with our people
Run who had pressed upon them in their re
Brook treat through the north meadow. The ~~[illegible]~~ order was given by [illegible] to ~~[illegible]~~ in case of ~~[illegible]~~ defeat of his troops ~~[illegible]~~

The ground south of the Brook is now generally cleared of its woods, from the west bank of Deerfield river to the James house, situated on the present road. Here, when my Grandfather, one of the prisoners, the saw stacks of snow shoes, packs and other baggage, deposited, prior to the attack on the fort and village, as related in my contemporary Researches (page 184).

After viewing this interesting site, we proceeded up the road to Petty's plain, and then in an easterly direction to the crest of the hill. [Old road] Then passed Williams farewell [illegible]. and noticed the old road up a ravine where formerly stood the old Indian pine tree, bearing the representation of a human body, rudely cut in the bark with the hatchet. [Ind. pine tree] The tree has been felled and the body removed to our village, as an Indian relic. I now ~~this~~ place we traced the old road some distance north, over open ground recently cleared. This road is interesting from its being the route taken by Capt Turner on his march to the Great falls now bearing his name to attack Philips Indians in May 1676.

August 19. as selected in my Researches, page 278, in the same identical point and the gate of East Holyoke, in the district of Turner's Falls across the plains, followed by the ferocious enemy who pursued upon the rear [illegible] probably [illegible] Scotland along the [illegible], and the [illegible] of some of the unfortunate sufferers [illegible]. After viewing these interesting sites, we returned to the village, by stage, full of recollections of the sufferings of our forefathers.

After noon rode — In the afternoon, being invited to visit Bloody Brook, by Col. Wilson, we proceeded to that place and examined the Rail Road now completed to that village from Northampton, and witnessed the arrival of the cars with their numerous passengers. The novelty of the operation attracted the attention of the people, and all was hurry to the place and activity; and several stage coach is in waiting to convey the passengers on the route northward. Here we witnessed scenes different from my many excursions. But we have observed the progress of modern improvements in Steam Power, by which long trains of cars are moved along the iron stamped way, with the rapidity of at least, of 20 miles per hour. Had our forefathers been told of this progress of the arts they would have considered it as the prediction of utopian visionaries.

(New rail road Bloody Brook)

The invention it must be confessed, is ingenious; but I cannot but regret that a work so expensive should be constructed with so great a portion perishing materials, as that timber planks, which must require frequent repairs: [illegible] the profits of the Proprietors.

urged a Gentleman present, remarked that rail
19. roads would soon be laid aside, and con-
veyances by lightning be substituted.
On the whole, though it may be said, we
have made great improvements in the me-
chanic arts, the question presents, whe-
ther we have become a better, and more
happy people than our fathers?
20 Thursday. Mer. thirty degrees, wind S.W.;
the day cool & generally cloudy:
The cost of the Rail Road from Northampton
to Greenfield is estimated at 3.000.000 dollars
Is it probable that the results from freight
& passengers shall amount to 18.000
dollars per year, the interest at 6 per cent, and include
expenses & repairs?
From its novelty and ingenuity a
rail road charms the people and with-
out reflection and calculation they
seem ready to believe that their welfare
and prosperity rest on their construction;
but I am far from believing they are so
important as is generally supposed.
When they extend between great marts
their utility becomes obvious, and
they may be supported and be profita-
ble; but for the economical convenience of a
few inland towns, it is a great error
to suppose them useful. A rail road
from here to town, say of 6 miles, requires
at the shortest distance would cost about
120.000 dollars, and where is the interior
town that can afford this expense; one of

tion or a dozen towns united in the same or the same project, the difficulty is not diminished. The people in their enthusiasm may subscribe one third or one half of the expense; but without foreign aid, the project dies.

20. Towns unable to construct them

Take, for example, the towns on either side of the Connecticut above Springfield; and the inhabitants could raise but a moiety of the sum required for a rail road through them. The present road from Springfield to Northampton & its continuation to Greenfield could not have been constructed, without the aid of foreign subscription; and why Boston became interested in its favor does not clearly appear; but with standard one may perceive the motive.

21 Friday. Morn. cloudy with some rain and SW. winds. Day continued cloudy to the close.

Odd Fellowship. This institution which has recently become fashionable among the people of a certain description, begins to [attract] the attention of the thinking part of the people as a scheme of a dangerous character.

Odd Fellowship

Some unknown gentleman, sends me by mail, the Westfield Standard of the 19th instant, containing the communication of Dr. E. Willis of Harwinton & some body else, in which the plan of this secret society is stripped of its disguise, and exhibited in its true form, meaning and feeling.

Secret Society

On the prostration of Freemasonry, after

its murder of William Morgan, by sinking him in the Niagara river, and for its other atrocities, I predicted a resuscitation of the order, in some form but it was hardly supposed the substitute would so nearly resemble ~~the~~ freemasonry as is now found in the order of Odd fellowship; and I have considered the revival too puerile to deserve much notice. But its pernicious bearing on the welfare of community is likely to equal that of freemasonry, unless the steady part of community shall first or think upon its precepts, which is now enlisting the youth of the country, as well as some other whose more advanced age, uncultured minds and want of discernment, render them the dupes of delusion.

Since perusing Dr Willis' remonstrations, I have looked over a pamphlet recently published at New-York, which developes the scheme of odd-fellowship, and shows it to be as ridiculous as freemasonry, if not as pernicious as ~~that~~ order.

To account for the propensity of a portion of the people, to the ridiculous, it may be sufficient to observe, that in all communities there will be found a portion of credulous men incapable of raising themselves to distinction by their acquirements, but who seek it through pretensions of possessing important secrets, unknown to the community at large.

Odd fellowship, despicable as it is, may be

27th. informed men [struck: ...] Generous than it
[margin: ing'd] is supposed to be, and probably will
21. be found in our ballot boxes, exercising
an influence, not more dreamed of by
the steady part of community, as was the
case of freemasonry prior to the murder
of Morgan.
The Editor of the Westfield Standard,
promises to wield his pen in opposing
the progress [struck: of] of the pernicious scheme & more so
rise among us any more.
The new Spark developments, it is supposed
contain the methods of initiation and
obligations as imposed by the clans prior
to the downfall of masonry; but more in
some [struck: degree] veiled to render them some
what less disgusting to the initiates:
but the plain and design of the order re-
main equally objectionable to good sense.
22 Saturday. More cloudy with S.W. wind
the day partially cloudy.
[margin: Son & family on a visit] My son Arthur, wife & little Charles
left us on a visit to their friends at
Halifax.
I have just finished the Speech of Senat
[struck: ...] Allen of Ohio, delivered Feby 10 & 11 [struck: ...]
[margin: Allen's Speech] [struck: ...] and the opinion I had formed
of him now, from his course in the Senate
is now confirmed [struck: ...] that he is, a tho-
rough going democrat, or rather a Jacobin,
[struck: ...] fitted for [struck: the] leader of a wild people
in [struck: a] revolution, or for the overthrow of law, order
a wisely regulated civil government; and also to demolish all
[struck: ...] institutions sanctioned by antiquity, without
ever reflecting on the consequences. To such men

22 ... many attendant ... all the pol-
ical disturbances ... in this country
and the misfortune is, that a few such
characters can deceive and mislead a portion
of the uninformed people of this country —
Next to Gen Cass, and Mr Hannegan of the
senate, been successful in their plans, we
should at this time, been plunged into a war
with Great Britain as well as with Mexico, for
the paltry possession of a tract of woods, situ-
ated north of the latitude of the 49th degree
on which no prudent planter would have
settled ... It is time for the people
to ... the designs of such men, and to ... them
in the back ground, where they would no
longer have the power of disturbing the harm-
ony of society — I was gratified to see the Allens
speech in a pamphlet form, & hope it will be
read in Europe, where it will serve as an
index to the designs of ... the ... backwoods
Mr Allen may figure for a while in our
back-woods, but within a short time he
... to ... will be ... only
against the refined nations of Europe ...
... for the ... of the
... of the liberties & happiness of man.
The ... of the crowned heads of
Europe against the ambition of Mr Allen
"great man" of France, was an unpardonable
one — yes this "Great man", whose ambition
led him to ... all the Governments
... upon the
... was,
... Mr Allen, ...

22[illegible]
August 22
when the minds become thus bewildered, any attempts to restore them even to common sense, are fruitless, and the only remedy to be applied is, to show to the people their insanity.

But deep as is the delusion imposed upon a portion of the people, by the sophistry of reckless men, it is a matter of gratulation that a majority of the people of the United States are not yet prepared for the introduction of so ruinous a scheme of radicalism as that urged by the wild frenzy of Mr Allen; and when the wise course of the Senate, in defeating the designs of this madman and his associates, in the case of [illegible], shall be perceived by the people, they will present their thanks to this majority for saving them from the ruinous measures, into which this reckless impetuosity would have plunged them.

An analysis of the speech of Mr. Allen would present a crude mass of ingredients between which no affinity exists, either chemical or political. Let us then sincerely congratulate ourselves on the prospects now presented which promise a continuation of the Constitution prepared by Washington, and his Federal associates who saw the ravings of wild democracy and provided a check by a Senate composed of men less liable to the fury of a disordered excitement, is likely to be import the [illegible] benefit of [illegible] generation the noble purposes of the people should be [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] through the influence of [illegible] delusion

August Sunday. Cloudy and rainy morn;
23. Swung S.W.; day generally cloudy but
without much rain.

Ins of / mem / both — Died at Canaan last [illegible]: Mrs. Experience Swan, 3d Daughter of my late Uncle Jonathan Hoyt. She resided several years at Cheapside, and sometime after the death of her husband Joseph Swan removed to Canaan & resided with her son Guy Swan: Aged 79 years. My Uncle's family consisted of 2 Sons & six daughters; Clement, Cephas, Abigail, Hannah, Experience, and Sally. Clement and Sally emigrated to the State of Vermont, with her husband — Wilkinson. Clement had a numerous family, several of whom are ~~moved~~ to the western country. Abigail married an Allen of Greenfield; Hannah Capt. Severance of Shelburne, and after his death, a Martindale of Greenfield. Mrs. Swan was the last of my Uncle Jonathan's family. Cephas lived and died on the Cheapside farm, in this town and had two children. My Great Grand father, Deacon David Hoyt, first settled on this farm, and built a small house in the side of the hill, north of the present Hoyt house. He was taken by the French & Indians when our village was destroyed in 1704, and on the route to Canada, famished in the woods near Coos, now Newbury in Vermont.

24 Monday. Morn fair, wind N. and fair day succeeded. The remains of Mrs. Swan were brought from Canaan & interred in our Cemetery. Attending her funeral and

22 attempting to mount a buggy wagon, I lost
my balance and fell to the ground with
24 considerable concussion & some injury. The
fall was wholly unnecessary & ought to be ma
Accident [illegible] been avoided by due care. Thus most of
[illegible] accidents or misfortunes are the result of
our own carelessness; but we are, at the best,
but short sighted beings, ever often forget
what the laws of nature forbid.

The Poet expresses the idea as follows:

Think'st thou, like some weak prince, the eternal cause
Prone for his favorites to reverse his laws!
And again
When the loose mountain trembles from on high
Shall gravitation cease if you go by?

25. Tuesday. Warm sun with N E wind.
Heavy fog & cloudy

About 4 o'clock this morning, [illegible]
(I am informed) a considerable shock
of an Earthquake occurred here. The con-
Earthquake cussion was short, but so great as
to wake people from sleep. Earthquakes
are rare in New England, and the sur-
face of the earth seems to have acquired
a state of repose; though from the abrupt
hills and such cavities it would ap-
pear that this has not always been the
case. Is the explosive subterranean matter
exhausted, and we feel only the concus-
sion from explosions in distant places
where the laboratory is still active, &
its safety valves unobstructed? The hypothe-
sis which explains the cause of Earthquakes
from the existence of subterranean fires, seems
to be well established by geological investigation
[illegible] phenomena every where found. See

August 25 — See Bakewell's Geology Chap. 13th (283) where the subject is treated to a considerable length, and satisfactory conclusions drawn. From the numerous extinct volcanos found in various parts of the Globe, it appears that our Earth is in a more tranquil state than formerly; and whether new volcanos may not hereafter appear, is a question we are not able to solve.

(Explained by Bakewell.)

(Conjectures.) If the central part of our Globe consists of a melted mass, as some of our Geologists suppose, then volcanos are but vents, or a sort of Safety valves for the [illegible] matter of the grand Laboratory, [the opening] or confined channels at the surface of the earth. (volcanos safety valves) What may be the use of volcanos in the economy of nature, we cannot say, but they may be an important appendage for the safety of the globe, and that they serve some useful purpose is inferred from their being the contrivance of the wise Architect of the Universe.

26. Wednesday. Cloudy morn, with some rain and wind at N.E. the day mostly cloudy & cool.

(Boston [illegible]) We are informed that sickness to an unusual extent, prevails in Boston, supposed to have been caused by the heat of the season; the diseases are abdominal, or cholera morbus, in some instances resembling the cholera of Asia; [illegible] this be [illegible]

284 not our more southern cities infested
August with the similar diseases?

26. The origin of the Asiatic Cholera and its progress thence to other countries, are not satisfactorily explained, unless it seems to be confined to warm countries. Its appearance in Canada a few years since, shows that it is not confined to hot climates; and if so why may it not originate at Boston as well as at other northern places. If it is owing to a crowded population, or some particular of living, then these circumstances demand attention to avoid the consequences; and it has often been a question with me, whether we are safe in seeking clustered habitations in this country of so extended a surface.

Origin of the Cholera

Reflections: But the fact is that the life of man is limited to a short space, and that wherever he may reside, maladies will be found, fitted to bring [illegible] continuance, or beyond the limits prescribed by the laws of nature.

The following work has been laid on my table, by one of the proprietors of this village. A Legacy to the friends of Free Discussion; being a Review of the principal historical facts and personages of the Books known as the Old & New Testament; with Remarks on the ~~nature~~ morality of nature: By Benja Offen of N. York, recently published in Boston 1 vol.

Offen's Legacy

The main object of the Book, the writer says, is to show that Jehovah the God of the Jews, is not the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, but a fictitious being, having no real existence whatever; and that the Bible, including the old & new testament is

Design of [it]

is not a Divine Revelation. But the limits of the work, he says, will only admit of a scanty of what might be said on the subject.

The work is highly Deistical, but is written with considerable ability and candor, and so far as it relates to the Pentateuch of Moses, not unworthy of consideration. The arguments of the writer, against alleged miracles, I think are inconclusive. These miracles may be assented to when the evidence is sufficiently strong, and the object which they are to establish of importance to the world. What will be the effect of such publication in this country, is a question. But one thing I think is certain. Viz: That no system of religion can long be sustained, where the press is free, unless it be freed from obvious absurdities & rendered consistent with enlightened reason. But on this point probably men never will agree.

If mankind once agree in the fundamental points, embracing a conviction of the existence of an omnipotent, and benevolent being who created, & governs the universe, the obligations of morality, and the duties of members of enlightened society, in its laudable forms, they cannot fall far short of the intentions of their Creator, who requires of his creatures nothing beyond the capacities given them. And this is sanctioned by an apostolic writer, who says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God & the Father is this. To visit the fatherless & widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world". James Chapter 1st 27 verse

28 In his investigation of the Jewish absurdities found in the pentateuch & in the other parts of the Bible, Mr. Offor seems to forget others that are commendable and sometimes partaking of the sublime. Had he taken the course of Mr. Norton in his Genuineness of the Gospels, he would have approached nearer to the truth. Mr Norton says, the Pentateuch is a compilation made some centuries after the death of Moses, and that some of the transactions declared to be, by the order of the Deity, are totally inconsistent with the benevolence taught by the Christian religion. And he adds "In considering these books we must divest ourselves of the Jewish notion of their divine authority, or in other words, we must divest ourselves of the belief that the truth of all the facts which they relate, and of all the sentiments which their writers express, rest on the authority of God. When viewed under this aspect, they excite constant objections, and present occasions of scandal. In the books of Joshua and Judges, Mr Norton says, "There is evidently a great mixture of fabulous traditions such as are found in the early history of all other Nations. In the Jewish histories, he adds, "The conclusion that in them are many accounts of miracles not to be credited, has no bearing whatsoever on Religious faith nor Morals. See Note D in the 2d Vol.

Had Mr. Offor pursued the course of Mr Norton and cast away the fungus which has infested that history and retained the better parts, his work would have been more fair

August 24 Mr Norton's work

He's [illegible] of the Jewish laws

come until this principle be adopted.

24 Christianity will even find strong opposers, and faith and mystery lost favour supporters. The attempt to sustain Calvinistic Christianity in this country of free press, is hopeless and it becomes the lovers of Christianity to embrace a system that shall no longer oppose and obscure the good sense of mankind.

27 Thursday. Morn cloudy but soon cleared off, wind SW.; the day fair warmer than yesterday.

We have no recent account of any important movement of Gen. Taylor's army on the invasion of Mexico. The troops say the latest accounts are healthy but this is improbable and I fear we shall soon hear of fatal maladies among the new troops. Should they escape sickness it would be unparalleled in a hot climate. We have in the mean time account of marches made through mud and water, communicated in letters from the volunteers, the fatigues of which they had not intend them more before they left their homes, to whip the Mexicans in the environs of the city of Mexico. Several corps that have returned home by the President's orders, being without the full complement of the outfits & blankets supplied them by government. This is men who have mistaken militia fired spirit for camp service. By this time Gen. Taylor is able to judge of the camp service of volunteers, and would, if left to his own bidding, consent that they should visit home.

August 27 At the commencement of the war it would have been difficult to select a democrat who believed that the "Star spangled banner" of liberty would not at this time be waving in glorious triumph from the highest spire of the city of Mexico! — Such is the profound ignorance of our people, of the operations of war. They may now learn that numbers and enthusiasm may exist, and yet a nation remain a feeble military body power. Before we boast of our military power we must give up our childish prattle about our prowess in arms, and learn that the military strength of a nation, consists of the number of of enlisted men, that can be disciplined, subsisted, paid, and clothed. Numbers beyond this, are not soldiers; nor do they add to the strength of nations in a military point of view.

(Democratic notion)

(Real strength of nations)

28. Friday. Fair warm, wind N.W. attended by warm fine day.

The Earthquake noticed ((page 282, Tuesday last). was perceived in various parts of New England, but no where as violent. At Boston the rattling of doors and windows, &c. were perceived, and the oscillation of the walls of houses was distinctly visible. (Clouds)(Cloudy?) At Jamaica plain a chimney is said to have been shaken down, and at Worcester the bells in houses were rung. The magnetic intensity at the observatory at Cambridge, is said to have been greatly disturbed by the shock. This I think is probably likely, but we want the particulars more minutely stated.

(The Earthquake noticed at various places)

August 28 The vibration felt in New-England, 289
may have been from an volcanic explosion at some
distant place where there may have been
volcanic or destructive [illegible], if so, we
may look for details in the news pa-
pers, and [illegible] on the volcanic re-
gions, [illegible] of America.

This is but conjecture, based on the fact
that no volcanoes, or old craters indicating
volcanic [illegible], are found in the North-
ern States. But Earthquakes, though, have
occurred here, that have not been traced
to distant sources, [illegible] it does not
follow, that this section of country
will forever remain exempt from vol-
canic agencies.

The History of Volcanoes shows that they
have long periods of repose, then suddenly
burst out in violent eruptions.

From the building of Rome, 753 years
B.C. to 79 year A.D. no mention is
made of Vesuvius, though it had evi-
dently been in a former state of activity,
as Herculaneum and Pompeii destroyed
by the eruption of that year were paved
with lava. From the 12th to the 17th
century, nearly 200 years, it remained
quiet, and the crater was overgrown
with lofty trees prior to the great eruption
of 1631; but Etna has continued burning
since the time of Pindar (who died 435 years
B.C.) but with [illegible] intervals, seldom
[illegible] from the last 2 centuries
eruptions of the Peak of Teneriffe have been very
rare. See Bakewell's Geology p. 13. Other volcanoes
are subject to intervals of repose. But it [illegible]

290 has been in a formative state;
August and volcanoes have become less numerous;
28. may we not conclude that the process
Earth is now approaching its completion, and
imperfect that in future the Earth will be
yet come more tranquil? Of this, however, we can
hardly form conjectures; and
for any thing we know, volcanic agency
may increase, mountains would be opened
where none now exist. But the machine
of the Universe is under the care of a wise
Governor; and whatever may take place
we may be sure, will be consistent
with infinite wisdom and goodness.

29. Saturday. Morn cloudy, but warm; wind
S.W. Masses of clouds including showers, pass
ed; one attended with thunder South of us
another north.

The village of Bloody-brook is the Depot of
Northern stage-coaches, where they come
and depart every day. A passenger leaves Bos
ton about [illegible] and arrives at
the depot at 4 .. 40 P.M. and at our village
by coach between 5 and 6 P.M. Such rap
idity may be convenient for men of business
but not so for those who journey for pleas
ure and wish to view the country.
For the rapid travelling we are indebted
to steam power, its application to Naviga
tion is not less wonderful. A passage from
London to our village may now be made
within 14 or 17 days, [illegible]
(Dr Price of England, in his enthusiastic
remarks on our revolution & the structure
of our governments predicted might
occur in wealth & science; but
believe he hardly dreamed of the present
application of the steam engine to
the purposes of locomotion by land

or water; nor of transmitting write
ings by Electro magnetic shocks.
through continuous wires of almost any
extent."
Truly man has made wonderful ad
vances in arts and sciences, which to the
unphilosophic eye appear superhu
man. But confined as his operations
are to our planet, he is ex
tending his speculations to others of the
solar system; and by his improved
telescopes is reaching his views to
the confines of the universe, where other
suns are giving light to other planets
circulating around them, by the laws of gravitation
& proportion; and numerous nebulae of
unbounded extent are seen in all parts
of the great sphere, of whose dimensions
we can form no adequate conceptions. What
an astonishing thought! Our astronomer
says: "When we attempt, in imagination, to
fathom this abyss, it is in vain to think
of prescribing any limits to the Universe,
and the mind reverts involuntarily to the
insignificant portion of it, which we are
destined to occupy".
But with all of his improvements "a man's
a man for a that": or as the Poet says of Newton.
"Could he, whose rules the rapid comet bind,
"Describe or fix one movement of his mind?
"Who saw its fires here rise, and there descend,
"Explain his own beginning, or his end?

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August 29. "Alas, what wonder! Mans superior part
"Unchecked may rise, and climb from art to art;
"But when his own great work is but begun,
"What reason weaves, by passion is undone"

30 Sunday. Fair morn, wind S.W. and warm air

Dense clouds passed South of us in the afternoon, leaving the appearance of a Shower but the day continued fair. At night very clear sky

31 Monday. Fair morn — wind S.W. followed by a fair day. pretty hot.

The volunteer army — My predictions concerning the folly of employing volunteer corps of Militia in carrying on a war, are daily fulfilling, in the army on the Rio Grande. Letters of the 30th ult, and 2d of August, give accounts of a Fracas at the camp at Belknap — a true specimen of volunteer insubordination & confusion.

Confusion in camp Belknap — A Col. commanding a Brigade (Mitchell) who gave some order to his men, was disobeyed, attacked, disarmed, and with much difficulty saved his life; and the troops of different corps came very near engaging in a bloody conflict. The Col. escaped their daggers & rifles, and set out for the camp of Gen. Taylor to report the mutiny; and what will be the result was uncertain.

One of the letters (from a volunteer to his Brother) says "When I volunteered it was to fight and not to be idle for a year. But I now find that the regulars are to be able to defend any part of the … Gen. Taylor says, one regular is worth five volunteers, and that he only wants volunteers for …

it is stirred by. It would seem that
31 we are kept merely to do the drudgery; and
such is the case; and the writer tells his brother
not to be surprised, if he should see him
in Cincinnati in the course of six weeks.
Another letter (from a volunteer) says — "We were
all full of fight, and I firmly believe that an
600 Baltimoreans could have whipped the
whole 2500 Ohioans: Dan Wells had taken
deliberate aim at the Colonel, and would have
blown him sky high, had it not have been
for a Dutchman who struck his musket."
This irregularity excites no surprise in me
and it has rather been expected that such
& even worse confusion has not occurred ere
this time. Gen. Taylor must, by this time,
find full employment for his regular troops
in keeping down mutiny in his camps, and
without fighting the Mexicans.
Gen. Scott probably perceives this confusion
[illegible] a reproof to the President, his willing-
ness to be removed from the command of the
army composed of such materials; and [illegible]
[illegible] Washington cautions that no officer who
has any regard for his character or peace of mind
should venture by attempting to command
such troops. (See his official letters.); And
yet these are the species of troops we are
to rely on in case of war. What stupidity! The
government of a total ignorance of war &
its elements, by a majority of our people.
There is Col. A. Edward Webster with the
honours conferred upon him by Democracy
for "the patriotic service in raising a company
of volunteers for this "glorious cause"? It [illegible]

294 P^c still retains his enthusiasm for militia service. At a time intent upon the lessons [illegible] learnt as taught by Washington and other able commanders, one must rely on the spirit of a militia corps in Boston commanded to the time of a brass band, or other foppery which has so long infested our militia corps, and more in a higher degree than those of the City of Boston.

Lingard 31.

His misplaced zeal

Was young Webster stimulated to his course by the advice of his Father? This is all [illegible] here. If his Father consented, it was probably to cure his juvenile propensity, and nothing could cure him more thoroughly than field service in the climate of Mexico with volunteers, who should elect their officers, or who would submit to their [illegible] expenses, a scheme, said Gen. Mercer of our revolutionary army, "that will never make the discipline of armies, and not less repudiated by Gen. Washington.

A due course of Study in the art of war is not to be deemed a necessary part of the education of young gentlemen. So long as war is unavoidable, the study of its principles is necessary, and even noble; but it should be confined to the means of defence, any other being equally unjustifiable. There are many instances, in which it becomes proper to invade a neighboring nation, as when it disregards the rules of natural morality and becomes robbers & pirates, as was the case of Algiers, prior to its conquest by the French; and in such cases the war is strictly defensive & justifiable. But when the study is founded on false principles and is carried on [illegible], and no better than a part of being, as in our present militia system

Study of the art of war

Same in the [illegible] of the [illegible]

of little or no worth, and adds no strength to the strength of a country. If we rely on [illegible] to redress our wrongs, [illegible] unprepared to use them in an effective manner; and so long as other nations who may attack us, have expensive forces instructed in all the arts and science of war, we cannot successfully oppose them without similar troops. In case of [illegible] we must increase our regular force to such an extent as will ensure our [illegible] and to rely on volunteer corps of militia for this purpose, is preposterous.

In time of peace our regular army may be small, but we should adopt such a system, as will, at all times, enable us to increase the army to any exigencies.

This day. Warm fair and wind S.W. and a fine day & warm [illegible]

A volunteer parade to be formed [illegible], Bladensburg this day & tomorrow, for drill and camp duty, in which adjutant General Oliver is to attend. All our probable parades of this kind might be useful were the corps constituted of the right sort & our officers possessing a taste for tactical studies. Gen. Oliver, I think, is able to impart useful instruction; but 2 or 3 days afford little opportunity to give it. In all our parades of this sort, little [illegible] for imparting the great principles of [illegible] and important elementary [illegible], which [illegible] regular troops; and this fundamental [illegible] of discipline is almost wholly [illegible]
[illegible]

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great difference between the disciplined soldier and the citizen a difference not perceived by the unmilitary eye, but at once observed by the experienced officer.

Remarks.

A volunteer corps may be expert in the manual exercise and ready in some of movements in the field; but unless the men are imbued with those fundamental qualities, they have little claim to the character of soldiers. In a word, without due subordination and regular obedience, they are as the prime walls, and totally unfit for military service.

Impression volunteers

If Gen. Taylor finds his volunteers of a different character, they are exceptions to the common race of men. But by the time he has been three months he will have to estimate them and will hardly ask the President for an increase of volunteer corps. The recent disturbance at Camp Belknap is but a small specimen of volunteer discipline Gen. Taylor will meet with before their term of service expires.

2. Wednesday. Fair morn - with N.W. wind & fog on the mountains, promising a fine day for the militia sport at Bloody brook. The day was clear and hot and many of our young people, attracted by the novelty of a tented camp, are flocking to the ground, to witness the strange review. Bells' Hill is in its milder form, resembling a group of covered vehicles, in a camp of emigrants or there must be a distant country.

[illegible] aged, [illegible] the reign of [illegible] Peace, what [illegible]
[illegible] of this country [illegible] to see this [illegible]
change from the [illegible] of a [illegible]
[illegible], where complete obedience to orders
is [illegible] as the [illegible] virtue; and the
soldiers [illegible] obedience to
their commanders [illegible] to stand, advance or
retreat at the word of command. [illegible]

3. University. [illegible] the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] generally the latter

The [illegible] of [illegible] on the rail roads
in [illegible] parts of the country, are more
frequent [illegible] than anticipated [illegible]
[illegible] they [illegible] by all
[illegible]
[illegible] continue.
We have just heard of one at [illegible]ville
in which a [illegible] on the road
has been [illegible] in [illegible] by the
passing engine & car; the [illegible]
have not obtained. The [illegible] cost of our
village will cut off our passages to our
[illegible], and [illegible] our boys who
[illegible] & [illegible]; and though
the [illegible] of passage may be [illegible], yet some
[illegible] will sometimes happen; [illegible]
[illegible] it [illegible] will be
made [illegible], two in the forenoon & two
in the afternoon, and there must be [illegible]
[illegible] the intersecting roads [illegible]

298. instruct this caution to children— or young lads! We may then look for accidents in our vicinity, & I am not without apprehensions that others will occur from the embankments on the [illegible] [illegible] that [illegible] anticipation ought to have been avoided.

Thirty years hence, our people may inquire what have been the advantages derived from the passage of the rail road through this town? True the road may give passage to a greater number of people than now pass through the village; but what shall we see or know of them, excepting the smoke and puffing of the engine & cars. For their rapid passage!

Note:— The weather is [illegible] hot, and [illegible] [illegible]. In the absence of the sun we look for cooler air but this does not always follow; in these cases the heat seems to exist in the ground and the atmosphere, but why there is thus not a [illegible] of the cooler [illegible] as I think is generally the case in [illegible] is known.

4 Friday. Another thundery, hot air, and warm [illegible] 58°. Last night was very hot, throughout, and a [illegible] of rain fell, [illegible] by [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible]. [illegible] among detached clouds from which came [illegible]

Septr. 4 The Army
Mr. Polk's army for "conquering a Peace with Mexico", has as yet made but small progress in the accomplishment of that object; by this time, [illegible] found that an army of volunteers is not quite so ready for an invasion as his [illegible] have supposed. Mr. Pina

Slow progress of
[illegible] will probably demand leave to push into the [illegible] book of the [illegible] office in order to [illegible] the "delays" of Mr. Polk in the [illegible] of our army to the City of Mexico. Who ever thought that democratic volunteers required, beef, pork, bread [illegible], or waggon teams, [illegible] &c. to transport them? Gen. Jackson never permitted such delays, but when in a starving condition, he fed his troops on acorns, since they [illegible] the [illegible] of the slow operations of a commissariat department. – [illegible]

5 Saturday. Clear morn; wind S.W. and the day fair & hot, but a refreshing breeze [illegible] before sunset, rendering the heat less oppressive, though the breeze may have had no effect on the thermometer, exposed to the current.

6 Sunday. [illegible] S.W. & a small shower last night, with some thunder, & the night hot; day overcast fore & very hot throughout.

Sept. 6 — If the excess of heat we hear felt the much ..., prevails in the country on the Rio Grand, we may look for accounts of severe sickness among Gen. Taylor's volunteers; and we already hear of the arrival of a steamer at N. Orleans with 108 men on the sick list. (Date of the arrival the 23^d ult.) This probably is but a small portion of the sick in the camps; and it would not excite our surprise were the numbers to swell to thousands in the course of this & the next month. Probably the regulars will suffer less, they having been habituated to a camp life. This consideration seems to have been overlooked by our wild democratic writers, who have formed their opinions of military discipline from the display of volunteer corps on their home parades, where leisure or liberty and equality are considered tantamount to mechanical ability and due subordination to their officers, without which an army is but a disorderly rabble, effectually ~~[illegible]~~ for food, for disease and death in their most fatal forms, and particularly in hot climates, where, as the Poet says,

"Death his vast sithe, with swift unwearied hands,
"Spreading pity quits the ~~sanguine~~ mighty fields."

The objects of this war are well understood, and if several thousands of our young men perish, their deaths shall be compensated by the annexation of North Mexico to our own union and the blessings of democratic liberty diffused over the country, in other instances

Of the Army on the Rio Grande

Sickness unavoidable

Democratic raw troops

Sept. 4. <u>pass</u>, in which the "rights of man" 301
are no longer to be restrained by the "worm eaten" rules and maxims of former times.

7. <u>Monday</u>. Foggy morning, and Wet; clear at 10 A.M. and the [illegible] very warm. P.M. wind S.W. and cumulus mass of [illegible] white clouds, move across the face [illegible] Shower ing, indicating thunder showers, but none occurred — the day very hot, and it is singular that we have no thunder showers; but a singularity I have noticed in several past years. As electricity becomes quiescent by an equal diffusion through the earth and atmosphere contrary to its former phenomena, which seem to be well explained by Dr. Franklin's <u>plus & minus</u> theory, which, I am aware, is not admitted by some late electricians; who contend for two antagonistic fluids rushing together in the electric shock, and then ceasing hostility.

8. <u>Tuesday</u>. Morn fine, wind S.W. and still warm air. Fine [illegible]; sun about 6° N. declination. What a difference in the temperature and that of April when the declination is the same! The day was hot & fine with scattering clouds. This day My Son Arthur left us for Plattsburg (State of N. York) where he is to join Mr. Haywood the Engineer of the Railroad to be constructed between that place & Ogdensburgh. He takes with him my Grandson Robert B. Williams

Septr 8 — with the intention of finding him employment as a draftsman, of which he has acquired pretty good skill, or otherwise.

(My Son on a rail road at Brattlebury) My son's disappointment in not obtaining the appointment of Engineer on an rail road from Northampton to Greenfield, has been mortifying to his feelings, and I was apprehensive it might produce an unfavorable disposition of his mind. But he has borne the disappointment with commendable firmness, and, I hope, has now obtained an appointment where he may be useful to his employers, as well as to himself.

The [illegible] of the road I am informed is about 14 miles, a considerable portion of which is through an uncleared country, where the winter is severe. The task is arduous and requires hardy and resolute men, who shrink not at trifles.

In consequence his wife and her little children are in Salisbury, where they expect to reside some time at her father's house.

The changes of my family since the death of my wife have been frequent and rather annoying to the repose my age requires; but I have met with kind treatment, and, in general, with respectable associates, from whom I have parted with regret.

My present family, composed of Mr [illegible], wife, and three children is agreeable and interesting, and the children afford me much entertainment; and I hope nothing will occur to mar the good feelings which have thus far prevailed. I now need the aid of kind friends and hope they will never be found wanting.

Septr. 9 Wednesday. Morn fair, wind N. — 3 [illegible]

and the air much cooler than it has been for some days past. Day continued fair & cool and pleasant. Probably the hot season has terminated, and northerly winds will prevail, bringing air from colder regions. When this first occurs, there is a sort of serenity in the aspect, which produces a kind of gloominess, or depression of the animal spirits, for which I cannot readily account; but the fact I have dily [illegible] noticed, and perhaps it is peculiar to myself. If the affection is general, there must be some predisposing cause.

May we say, that during the hot weather, when we are in a profuse perspiration, a debilitating diathesis is induced, which disposes the mind to light or fanciful reflections, and that when this diathesis abates, or ceases, and the mind is restored to more sedate reflections, it views objects less fancifully; and thus divested of an imaginative gloss, they appear less brilliant, but in fact, more in their true character, which at first, compared with their fanciful aspect, appear gloomy?

I am not certain, however, that this explanation, of the phenomena, [affords a true one], but it may answer until a more sound one is suggested; and the mind is not at ease without some explanation.

The weather. Effects of a change from hot to cool. An explanation suggested.

Sept 10 — Thursday. Fair morn, wind W. cool air, rendering a fire necessary in my room. Last night the air was not much above a frost temperature. Day fair & pleasant, and in the afternoon rather warmly. (uncommonly) The

Failures of the Telegraph — The Telegraph. Various accidents as I had anticipated, prevent the operation of this ingenious machine. In a late thunder storm 12 or 20 of the telegraph-posts, between Northboro' and Southboro', were struck by lightning. And many of them split down to the ground; the wire in one instance was severed. The shock was felt at Boston at the Telegraph office, where it produced quite an explosion (Boston paper Septr 5th.)

Derangement confused — In the same paper it is said, that the Telegraph between Boston and New York has been in working order, only a very little since it was completed. The trouble is between N. York and N. Haven; and the N. Haven Palladium says, the derangement results principally from a crossing of the wires between the two cities, but where and how thus far, has baffled every effort at detection. The consequence is, the fluid separates & passes from one wire to ~~another~~ both the others in its progress from New Haven to N. York, constantly changing the action & constant action of the line.

Remarks on. — My opinion of the practicability of this machine I have heretofore expressed, and its frequent failures do not surprise me; and the project of extending the line to New Orleans is preposterous. The theory of the electric shock is supposed to be understood, but perhaps not perfectly. The machine, I think

Sept. 10.

cannot be relied on, but on lines of moderate extent. It cannot be kept in working order; and, since mails are transferred on rail roads, all useful means of conveyance may be obtained by them.

I am a friend to improvements and believe that many are yet to be discovered & to be applied to useful purposes; but when they are more curious than useful, I would hold them in their true character, as specimens of the ingenuity of their contrivers, and thus far I applaud Mr Morse for his great ingenuity, and shall regret his disappointment in case of a failure of his machine, which I fear will be the result.

In all cases of very complex machines I entertain doubts of their success in practice, for they generally fail ~~in practice~~. The steam engine for navigation, is however an exception. This machine though complex answers the design for which it was intended, but is liable to sad disasters; and whether it can be rendered safe is yet to be determined. But as a general rule, we are safe in saying: Simple machines are the safest & ~~best~~ best. Take for example the saw mill, which is certainly a very simple machine, and the useful effect is hardly exceeded by any machine. And when of Steam saw-mills, I have little confidence in their successful operations. For raising water from wells the old sweep pole & bucket, are preferable to pumps or any other contrivance I have used, and when out of order it is easily repaired.

6 Friday. Morn thinly cloudy, wind W. & S.
11 the day passed with moderate air; and
though a fire was agreeable in the morn-
(306) ing the afternoon was rather warm.

We obtain very little information of
our army in Mexico; but rumors are
afloat that a sort of revolution has
taken place in the government of that
country, from which it is conjectured
that the war will be of short duration;
in which case, Mr Polk will file in a
heavy bill of cost, to be discharged by
a levy on a large portion of the Mexi-
can territory, to be annexed to our
Union, as a nursery for slavery.
where liberty is to "flourish and
blossom like the rose", under a gov-
ernment of "equal rights", which
holds that all men are "born free", &c. &
that the African race are but bipeds
without souls, created for the service
of the white people. What a solecism
I leave it to southern democrats to
clear it away.

12. Saturday. Fair, warm, wind SW.
and warm air; but soon became cloudy
indicating rain, but none arrived,
since the day was pretty hot.

13. Sunday. Fair morn, wind N. a little
... day very clear
and pretty hot. ... of ...
... I had not expected.

Septr 14 Monday. Warm wind [illegible] a hot day for September. [317]

Letter to Mr Gassett &c.

Sent a letter to Henry Gassett Esq Boston, by David S. Hayt, in answer to his of the 25th of July last, in which I expressed my opinion freely, as the Odd Fellows society, which is now engrossing the attention of our young inconsiderate men, as well as some others of more advanced age, who are the willing dupes of those who have some sinister objects in view not understood by the people at large.

Remarks on [illegible]

This society is a sprout from dead freemasonry, and bids fair to equal its [illegible] and parasitic propensities. Mr Gassett is one of the old veterans of Boston, who distinguished himself in the war against freemasonry, and well understands the nature of secret societies, and from the tone of his letter he will see that a desperate and hard matter struggle will be necessary to put down popular errors and free the people from secret influence which strikes at the root of our liberties.

Already has the fraternity become so bold as to ask the Legislature for acts of incorporation; but the good sense of the Legislature has, thus far, defeated of the [illegible]

Societies have become numerous in this country and some unexceptionable purposes, such as are intended for the promotion of general knowledge, and to check ignorance; but the moment they become secret, adopt private tokens and obligate to favor each other, they are dangerous to community, and ought to be opposed by all the friends of good order. When secret societies of this kind are indulged, law and courts of justice become a farce, the rights of the people are in jeopardy and the grossest crimes may go unpunished. This may not be the design of the honest members, but it is the direct tendency of the scheme, as every discriminating man will at once perceive. Under the imposing garb of brotherly protection honest young men will be induced to join the "Odd Fellows"; but they should remember that those of a very different character will seek admission, and by their arts of deception sometimes obtain it; in which case the honest members may find themselves linked to crime, at which they would recoil with horror were they not trammelled by obligations imposed on them in lodge.

A notification for an annual meeting of [illegible] members (delegates from all the grand Lodges of order present of the States) on the 20th instant is in the papers. The number is said to be 50, and Baltimore the place. Thus the pageant goes on! — But "it is a harmless benevolent society"!

¶ See continuation

Margin notes: "4." "the Societies" "(see 300) Sept"